



Vol. 42. No 1

The Maryland Yellowthroat

February 2022



Photo by Hugh David Fleischmann

Was this Kirtland's Warbler the Maryland bird find of the year in 2021? Our reviewer of Maryland's 2021 birding highlights, David Fleischmann, thinks so. But, it had a lot of competition for the honor. Read David's recap beginning on page 13. It was quite a year!

In this Issue

President's Corner	Page 3	Spotlight on Marengo Woods MOS Sanctuary	Page 10
MOS Scholarship Report by Anna Urciolo	Page 4	by Bettye Maki and Marcia Watson	
YMOS Winter News by George Radcliffe and Wayne Bell	Page 5	2021 Maryland Birding Recap	Page 14
		by Hugh David Fleischmann	
MC BP Partnership Update by Chris Eberly	Page 7	Wild Turkeys in Maryland	Page 20
		by Bob Long	
Sanctuary Committee Report by Marcia Watson and John McKitterick	Page 8	Chapter Chatter	Page 22
		by Jean Wheeler	
		In Memoriam: Leslie McGavin Clifton	Page 26
		by Marcia Watson	

The Maryland Yellowthroat
Publication of the Maryland Ornithological Society

Editor: Dave Wood

Yellowthroat@mdbirds.org

Copy Editor: Susan Pardew

Calendar Editor: Marilyn VEEK

calendar@mdbirds.org

Chapter Chatter: Jean Wheeler

jswheeler3@verizon.net

Mailing List: Maryanne Dolan

maryanne.dolan@gmail.com

Webmaster: Tom Strikwerda

webmaster@mdbirds.org

Editor's Note

In the February, 2021, issue of the Yellowthroat, Hugh David Fleischmann gave us an enthusiastic review of the 2020 Maryland birding highlights. The risk of his contribution was subsequently borne out, as we liked it so much that we asked him to do it again for 2021. David graciously assented, even though he was busy tracking birds in, at least, Texas and Maine (see his photo of Maine's Steller's Sea Eagle on page 25). David seems to have been clued in on every noteworthy find during the year, and his inspiring and amazingly thorough recap of 2021 can be found on page 14. We hope that a new Yellowthroat tradition has begun.

Elsewhere, Bob Long, of the Maryland Department of Natural Resources, kindly contributed an update of the status of Wild Turkeys in the state and how we can help ensure they continue to prosper through such activities as participation in the Summer Wild Turkey Observation Survey. Bob's account of Northern Bobwhites appeared in the May 2021 issue. Marcia Watson came through again, this time with several contributions: the latest in her MOS sanctuary profile series (Marengo Woods) co-authored with Bettye Maki, the sanctuary manager; a Sanctuary Committee update co-authored with John McKitterick, and, sadly, an eloquent remembrance of her friend and long-time MOS member Leslie McGavin Clifton. Also coming through again are Anna Urciolo with an announcement of the 2022 MOS Hog Island scholarship winners, George Radcliffe and Wayne Bell with the latest on YMOS adventures, Chris Eberly reporting recent MCBP actions, and Jean Wheeler with Chapter Chatter. The Yellowthroat is certainly grateful for all of their generous contributions.

As you know, The Maryland Yellowthroat is intended to inform its readers about the latest developments of the state's avifauna (conservation, ecology, population status, etc.). It also keeps the MOS members up to date regarding organization activities, such as bird walks, meetings, field trips, and the annual convention, and it serves as a vehicle for sharing members' discoveries, activities, and perspectives.

Without question, the many hours that MOS members have spent chasing birds through the years have produced a plethora of exciting, surprising, humorous, and dare I say, embarrassing moments. So, in that spirit, I would kindly request that you consider sending me (dave.wood@mdbirds.org) any relatively short (a paragraph or two will suffice) recollections of your birding experiences that were either 1) especially exciting or unexpected, or alternatively, 2) somewhat embarrassing or awkward—as not all of us have been exactly flawless in the field! I believe that we have so many stories out there that need to be shared, and not just with our avian friends, who I am sure would have many stories to tell about us birders. In the latter category, if required, I would be happy to recount the infamous "Sandy Point Black tailed Gull Incident of 1986." If we achieve a critical mass of contributions, we will publish them.

President's Corner

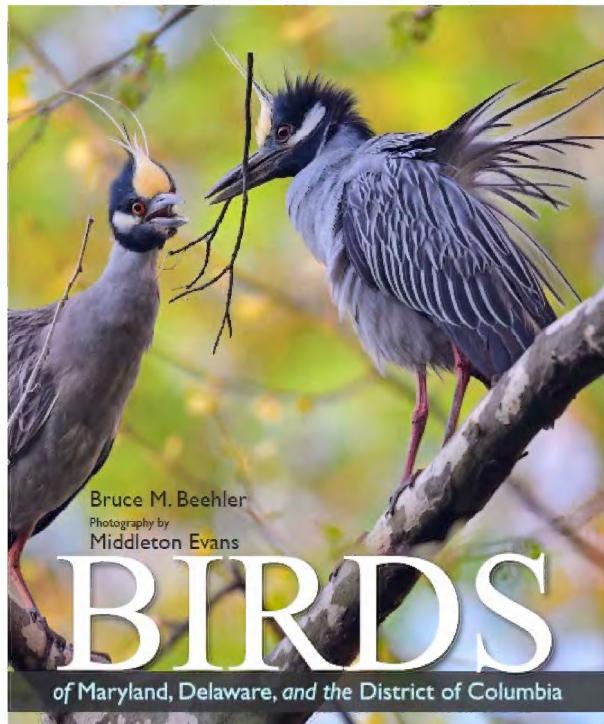
Mid-January, as I write this, is the coldest part of the year, and this year is holding true to form. Today promises snow later, so I am sitting inside watching the ebb and flow of the neighborhood flock of birds at my feeder. My eye is caught by the flash of blue as a male bluebird stops by, for a drink or a bath, for some sunflower chips, for some of the crumbs of suet on the ground under the suet feeder. He is one of six or eight bluebirds that wander my neighborhood in winter, and they always bring a smile when they appear outside my window. Perhaps it is because I never saw a bluebird while growing up; they don't much visit the urban area where I lived. Or perhaps it is because the flash of blue is such a joy in the winter, when everything is a shade of brown. Regardless, these "bluebird moments" always make me stop and just watch, drinking in that vibrant color blue and reminding me that spring is not that far off.

Bluebird moments happen in other ways, too. The December MOS Board meeting was held as a hybrid in-person/virtual event at Seneca Creek State Park early in December. It was the first time in almost two years that we have gathered together in person, and it was absolutely wonderful to see faces that weren't transmitted over the Internet. I got to actually meet for the first time several people that I have been working closely with but only virtually for the past year, and because there were other people in the room, I was finally able to wield the official MOS gavel for the first time to call the meeting to order! Such a rush!!

And then came Omicron. We're back to being hyper-careful again, guarding against an even more transmissible variant. Fortunately, the vaccines and boosters continue to substantially reduce the risk of serious disease (by as much as a factor of 20), but the increased transmissibility of this variant means that even the vaccinated (and I think most of MOS is vaccinated) can get symptomatic Covid and can transmit the disease, even if asymptomatic, to others. MOS as an organization has a moral obligation to society to avoid those activities that could lead to increased infection rates and to increased hospitalizations; we must not be contributing to the overloading of our hospitals. And so we are back to holding meetings virtually. The March board meeting will be virtual once again. Local chapter meetings remain virtual. But other activities, like field trips, which take place outdoors, can and do go on. And we can continue to enjoy the birds, whether from our living rooms or in the field, as long as we conduct ourselves responsibly.

As I write this in mid-January, there are some signs that the omicron wave may be starting to peak in Maryland and some other states, hinting of a not-too-distant future when we won't be worrying so obsessively with case counts and hospitalization rates. Or even to wear masks. Planning continues for the next MOS convention, to be held at Solomon's Island May 20-22. I hope that the convention will be an occasion for celebrating! And we've started looking into ways to improve how we can run our board meetings when they are hybrid, both in-person and virtual, as last December's was. The meeting was generally successful, but the audio from the meeting hall was not really adequate for those attending virtually. The hybrid model for Board meetings is another way to help knit the MOS community together, allowing every member of the Board to attend the meeting no matter how far away they are from the meeting site; we need to make sure it works well for everyone.

Another bluebird moment that crept up on me unexpectedly had nothing to do with Covid! Several years ago, MOS helped Bruce Beehler and Middleton Evans to publish "Birds of Maryland, Delaware, and the District of Columbia", a book with more than 650 color images featuring birds, their behavior, and their habitats. (The book can be ordered from Johns Hopkins University Press.) While the book is indeed a gorgeous celebration of the birds of Maryland, Bruce Beehler had always hoped to be able to send copies of the book to every public school library in the state, and has been diligently working with various charitable foundations to find the funding necessary to bring his hopes to fruition. In October, we got



word that the Charles T. Bauer Charitable Foundation had approved a \$25,217 grant to MOS in order to fund the placement of the book into Maryland public school libraries. Bruce designed a bookplate that goes into each copy of the book sent to a school library, ordered a new printing, and started the process of getting approvals from the local school systems. The books are being shipped directly from the printer, and are now appearing on the shelves of elementary, middle, and high school libraries across the state. The school librarians, in turn, have been sending letters and emails to express their thanks, and the excitement of the students, as these books have arrived. A sampling of these bluebird moments:

- "I just wanted to reach out and say thank you for the beautiful book you donated. It wasn't on the shelf a day before one of our students checked it out. We have some students who are very interested in birds."
- "Thank you so much for donating the beautiful book about birds in our area. The illustrations are magnificent! We have added it to our collection and it will be the focal point of our bird book display in February for National Bird Feeding Month."
- "On behalf of the students at Chesapeake City Elementary in Cecil County Maryland, thank you. We have received your complimentary copy of *Birds of Maryland, Delaware, and the District of Columbia*. I plan to use this as an available resource with my fourth-grade students as we research the plants and animals of the Chesapeake Bay watershed. Thank you for your donation and its timeliness."

I want to thank Bruce for his tenacity and hard work in getting this book into the hands of Maryland public school students. I have no doubt the book will help to spark the interest in birds and birding to another generation of Marylanders.

May the rest of your winter be full of bluebird moments!

John McKitterick

john.mckitterick@mdbirds.org

President, MOS



This book has been donated to your school by the Maryland Ornithological Society (MOS), made possible by a grant from the Charles T. Bauer Charitable Foundation and donations from MOS members, notably Peter Bungay, Joy Chambers, and James Cheevers. Students are most welcome to join the MOS, and especially YMOS (Youth MOS), a program for young people. The MOS and YMOS offer bird walks, nature education, and the company of people of all ages who share interests in wildlife and birds. Visit mdbirds.org.

Announcing the The 2022 Audubon Hog Island Camp MOS Scholarship Recipients

MOS will be awarding scholarships for the summer 2022 workshops to seven recipients who applied this year and one scholarship to an applicant who deferred from attending last summer. The Audubon Hog Island Camp has celebrated more than eighty years of education and MOS has supported scholarships to this Camp for many years. Our recipients work with students in schools or nature centers across Maryland. I have briefly listed their current job positions but there is so much more in their resumes and scholarship letters that they accomplish in those fields!

Five of the recipients will be attending the **Field Ornithology** workshop:

Alex Pelligrini, Naturalist at Oregon Ridge Nature Center

Martin Brazeau, Academic Advisor Community College of Baltimore County

Ayla McDonough, Research Assistant at Patuxent River Park

Jennifer Sheggrud, Middle School Science Teacher, Baltimore County Public Schools

Katherine Pauer, Naturalist at Croyden Creek and Locust Grove Nature Centers

Two will be attending the **Joy of Birding** session:

Genny Davis, Chesapeake Conservation Corps member
Pamela Ward, Naturalist at Oregon Ridge Nature Center

One recipient has signed up for **Sharing Nature: an Educator's Week:**

Emily Leedy, Elementary School Teacher, Charles County Public Schools

Although registration for the Audubon Hog Island Camp does not open until February 1st, the committee decided to review the applications beforehand and will be ready to send in all documentation promptly at 9:00 a.m. on February 1st!

Congratulations to all of the Hog Island Campers and also to the MOS chapters and colleagues who recommended them!

Anna Urciolo
Chair, MOS Scholarship Committee

YMOS News Winter 2022

YMOS Trip – A 4-Owl Day

On January 8th, the YMOS group braved the cold to bird Dorchester County. The intrepid group amassed a total of 95 species, remarkable for a January day. The highlight had to be the Snowy Owl in Cambridge. The students searched for it with no success as they birded throughout the morning. There were several other birders searching for the owl that morning, but none were successful. Finally deciding to move on, the group was heading toward Royal Farms for a needed bathroom break while Jake Rice-Cameron, who joined us briefly before heading back to Texas, was leaving Cambridge. Always paying attention, Jake continued to look for the owl, and, sure enough, on a remote side street, there sat the owl on someone's garage. Using phone and the radios the group uses use to stay connected, all were called back to the location for as close a look as one can get of the owl. The students broke out their cameras and had a good 20 minutes to photograph the bird, who seemed completely oblivious to the students and the traffic on the road.



Several of Jonathan's photos from the day can be found on the YMOS Facebook Page-
<https://www.facebook.com/Youth-Maryland-Ornithological-Society-108394860783723>.

Before the day was done, the group was able to find three other owl species – an Eastern Screech owl roosting at Blackwater and both the Short-eared Owl and Great Horned Owl on Shorter's Wharf Rd. The radios (each car had one) came in handy again as Joseph P., on the way to Shorter's Wharf, called all back for an immature Black-crowned Night Heron that he spotted. Other highlights included almost 20 duck species and four species of wren (Carolina, Winter, House, and Marsh).

YMOS Photo Big Day Results

In December, YMOS held their second annual Photo Big Day with students photographing as many species as they could in one day. The students collectively photographed 105 species, raising over \$800 as of this writing for the Chesapeake Bay Environmental Center in Grasonville, Md. Our thanks to all who made this event such a success.

Announcing the Annual YMOS Birdathon

March 19-20, 2022

The young birders in the Youth Program of the Maryland Ornithological Society (YMOS) will once again explore the shorelines, marshes, woods and fields of Maryland's Eastern Shore in quest of at least 100 bird species. The quest is anything but a "gimme" in mid-March on Delmarva, but you can be sure they will be up to the challenges posed by early waterfowl departures, very early spring migrants, and, oh yes, the weather (there are no rain dates!).

The annual YMOS Birdathon is the principal fund raiser to underwrite expenses for representing the MOS in the World Series of Birding (WSB), the world's foremost birding competition organized by New Jersey Audubon, in May. The youth invite your pledges of \$0.25, \$0.50, or \$1.00 per species seen over their two days in the field as they travel as a group from Assateague to Kent Island.

In addition to the challenges posed by the weather and the birds themselves, the youngsters construct an advance list of 100 "Must-See" species. Their final results require that they see two additional species to make up for any Must-See miss. Further, 90% of the participants must see or hear each species identified. Overcoming all these challenges requires planning and decision-making coupled with a high level of collaboration and sharing that is an YMOS hallmark. And, lest we forget, it is still great fun!

The 2022 WSB cadre is turning out to be a large one with at least 20 participating students. YMOS will field an all-state high school team, a carbon-free team, two middle school teams, and an elementary team. After two years of virtual participation, the students are excited to be returning to New Jersey for an in-person event.

You can pledge any time prior to the Birdathon by emailing George Radcliffe (radclifg@gmail.com) or Wayne Bell (wbell2@washcoll.edu). Those who pledge will receive an advance copy of the Must-See list. After the Birdathon, you will receive a report of all species identified and the amount you owe based on the net species total after any penalty deductions for Must-See misses.

Thank you in advance for your encouragement of this remarkable group of youngsters and, of course, the parents and coaches who rise early and drive long hours to make it all happen.

--George Radcliffe and Wayne Bell

MBCP Update – Yellowthroat January 2022

Bird Conservation Happenings in Maryland

Maryland Osprey and Nature Festival

A new festival is coming to southern Maryland this April. The Maryland Osprey and Nature Festival is a grassroots movement initiated by the citizens of Calvert County and throughout the State of Maryland. The support and collaboration of Calvert County government, state-wide conservation and wildlife rehabilitation agencies, and local and international businesses share the Festival's goals and mission: *Education.Conservation.Celebration* of our beautiful surroundings, nature, and wildlife.



Two juvenile Ospreys, within a couple weeks of fledging, were removed from their nest on a light structure in a Calvert County park in July 2021 for replacement of some lights. Rather than wait until the birds fledged, or turn the birds over to a wildlife rehabber, USDA Wildlife Services removed and euthanized the birds. This Festival was created to *celebrate* our charismatic Ospreys and *educate* the public, agencies, and owners of structures to foster an attitude of co-existence and *conservation* awareness in Calvert County and throughout the Bay. Proceeds from the Festival go to non-profit organizations who have a vested interest in protecting and conserving Ospreys, Bald Eagles, and other wildlife and natural areas of Maryland. Festival organizers want to ensure that the event of July 2021 will never be repeated, anywhere in State.

The Maryland Bird Conservation Partnership is a proud supporter of the Festival. Our feathered ambassadors of the Bay, who were here long before human settlement, all deserve our respect and support to successfully raise their young. Visit the Festival website for more details - <http://marylandospreyfestival.org/>.

Program Coordinator Volunteer/Intern Positions Available

Position descriptions have been posted to the MBCP website looking for volunteer program coordinators for the Farmland Raptor, Chimney Swift Conservation, and Bald Eagle Nest Monitoring Programs. A minimum time commitment is required. Pending securing funding, a small stipend may be available for the Bald Eagle coordinator. You can learn more and submit an online application at <https://marylandbirds.org/volunteer-opportunities>.

Bird City Maryland's BIRD CAMPUS program launched

The new Bird Campus program has already received and approved applications from the College of Southern Maryland and Salisbury University as the first and second Maryland Bird Campuses! Howard Community College's application is in development, and several other campuses may soon follow. Our Bird Campus program is the first state or regional program of its kind anywhere! Congratulations to our new Bird Campuses!

<https://marylandbirds.org/bird-campus>



Chris Eberly

Executive Director

Maryland Bird Conservation Partnership

Sanctuary Committee Report

By Marcia Watson and John McKitterick

The Sanctuary Committee is currently without a chair because the former chair had to step out on medical leave. John McKitterick and Marcia Watson are temporarily acting as co-chairs until a new chair is identified. Anyone interested in the position should contact John McKitterick (john.mckitterick@mdbirds.org).

A tree planting event was held at **Carey Run Sanctuary** in Garrett County on October 23, 2021. The planting was conducted in partnership with Trout Unlimited, with the goal of enhancing riparian buffers at Carey Run and creating a more diverse habitat by introducing some species not represented at Carey Run. The new trees and shrubs are all native to Garrett County and were chosen by Sanctuary Manager Chuck Hager for their value to birds and other wildlife. On the day of the planting, a total of 16 volunteers planted 56 trees and shrubs and installed protective tubes around the trees. The volunteers included 5 members of the Allegany-Garrett Bird Club, the 2 acting co-chairs of the Sanctuary Committee, and 9 students from Frostburg State University; a

staff member from Trout Unlimited was on hand to direct the planting. It was a rainy, chilly day, but the

weather did not deter the volunteers, who got the trees in the ground in just under 3 hours. The group then enjoyed a lunch of homemade soup and other goodies outdoors on the porch of the house. The purchase of the trees and planting materials was funded by a \$2000 grant from MD DNR's Tree-Mendous Maryland Program and a small private donation.

The **Carey Run house** is now graced with a handsome new metal roof installed in April 2021. Some overhanging non-native trees were removed to prevent rubbing against the roof. The house is closed for the winter as of this writing (January 2022) but will re-open to visitors in April. Contact Melissa Hensel (mjhensel29@gmail.com) for reservations. Overnight stays are \$25 per night, regardless of the number of visitors. The grounds are open all winter.

A one-day workday was held at **Irish Grove Sanctuary** in Somerset County on November 6, 2021. This was the first workday held since fall of 2019 – the three work weekends that normally would have occurred in the interval were cancelled because of the pandemic. The November workday was structured to make it a COVID-safe event. Instead of the traditional homemade meals prepared in the kitchen, we had a simple breakfast of doughnuts and coffee and for lunch had sandwiches carried in from a restaurant in Crisfield, eaten outdoors in a circle of chairs on the lawn. No one stayed overnight at the house. The group of two dozen volunteers spread out over the property, working singly or in small groups. The main activity was clearing of the trails, trimming of shrubs and vines around the house, and relocation of a foot-bridge. Some small repairs were made to the house, including patching drywall where a rain leak occurred last winter and removing a broken storm window for repair. The siding on the pole barn/screened picnic area was scrubbed and prepared for painting in the spring, and the gutters were cleaned. New Irish Grove volunteer Bob Zerbe, who lives in Crisfield, took some of the battered bird feeders down and has refurbished them.



Volunteers fan out to plant native trees and shrubs along an intermittent waterway at the edge of one of the upper fields at Carey Run. Photo by Marcia Watson

Sanctuary Committee Report

Continued from Page 8



Volunteers enjoy a take-out lunch, COVID-safe style, at the Irish Grove workday. Photo by Marcia Watson

grandfather had lived on a small farm that is now part of Irish Grove, and over the next few weeks, Sanctuary volunteers shared information and recollections with George, who was able to put together a document trail to confirm the former location of his grandfather's house, which is no longer standing. The culmination of the Hochmuth adventure was a visit on November 20 to the old farmstead by George, his adult daughter Melissa, and a few Irish Grove volunteers. The old home site was located in the northern area of the sanctuary, and is difficult to access because of a wide and deep roadside ditch, overgrown vegetation, and the wetland habitat. George says he will return to Irish Grove this coming spring to conduct more research on the property. Look for a full account of the Hochmuth story in a future issue of the *Maryland Yellowthroat*.

Thanks to an initiative by the Talbot County Bird Club, a gravel parking area has been installed at **Marengo Woods Sanctuary** in Talbot County (See Sanctuary Spotlight article in this newsletter.). Lack of parking has always deterred visits to this 49-acre parcel of pine woods. Now visits will be easy. Talbot chapter volunteers cleared brush from an area on the edge of the sanctuary, and hired a professional contractor to grade the site and spread gravel and to install a culvert in the roadside ditch at the parking area entrance. The new parking area can be located by entering 26216 Marengo Rd, Easton MD 21061 in your navigation system or on an online map. There is currently no signage at the parking area but it's the only gravel parking area on the north side of Marengo Road and is just east of the Gregory Road intersection.

A new sign has been prepared for **Mill Creek Sanctuary**, to replace the existing wooden sign, which has deteriorated with age; the new sign will be installed in the spring. Also in the spring (date TBA), a workday will be held at Mill Creek to replace a long footbridge over a deep ravine.

The **Irish Grove house** is now winterized (plumbing turned off). Visitors may stay in the house over the winter but they must bring their own water, as usual and must use the outdoor latrines. The water will be turned back on in April. Contact Pat Valdata (pvaldata1@gmail.com) for reservations. Overnight stays are \$25 per night, regardless of the number of visitors.

The **next work weekend at Irish Grove** is scheduled for **Friday, April 1 through Sunday, April 3, 2022**, and, if the COVID situation allows, we hope to make it a full weekend event with overnight accommodation at the house, as in the past. Watch for an announcement when it's time to sign-up.

In other news concerning **Irish Grove**, MOS was contacted in September, 2021, by Dr. George Hochmuth, a retired professor of soil sciences at the University of Florida. George believed that in the 1920's his



George Hochmuth and Melissa Hochmuth return from visiting the old Hochmuth homestead at Irish Grove. Photo by Marcia Watson

Sanctuary Committee Report

Continued from Page 8

At **Caroline W. Wilson Sanctuary** in Garrett County, members of the Allegany-Garrett Bird Club are preparing to install trail markers and signage and to improve stream crossings. Signage will also be installed at **Mandares Creek Sanctuary** in Anne Arundel County and local volunteers are needed to support that project (date TBA).

For more information on the MOS Sanctuaries, see

MOS Website

- Includes details on overnight reservations at Carey Run & Irish Grove
- <https://mdbirds.org/conservation/refuges-sanctuaries/>

Birder's Guide to MD & DC

- Includes directions, Google maps, trail maps, details on habitat and birdlife
- <https://birdersguidemddc.org/region/mos-sanctuaries/>

Spotlight on:

Marengo Woods MOS Sanctuary

Talbot County

By Bettye Maki and Marcia Watson

Note: This article is the third in a series spotlighting the ten sanctuaries owned by the Maryland Ornithological Society. The MOS sanctuaries are spread across the state from Garrett County to Somerset County, but the majority are little-known and seldom visited. Yet all the sanctuaries have something to offer the birder, naturalist, or conservationist.

Size: 49 acres

Habitats: Entirely wooded; predominantly loblolly pine; also scattered deciduous trees. Most of the interior is thickly carpeted with pine needles and has little groundcover or shrub layer. No streams, but there are seasonal wetlands present.

Hours: Daylight hours year-round; no reservations needed.

Cost: Free. Donations to the MOS Sanctuary Fund are always appreciated; donate online at <https://mdbirds.org/conservation/refuges-sanctuaries/#toggle-id-4>.

Tips: As of fall 2021, the sanctuary has a new gravel parking area at 26216 Marengo Road, with enough space for four or five cars. | The ground may be wet; waterproof shoes/boots advised. | There is no hunting allowed on the sanctuary but there may be hunting on adjoining private lands. Be aware of hunting seasons and plan your visit accordingly or wear blaze orange. | No restrooms.

Wheelchair Access: The sanctuary is not wheelchair-accessible. Some birding may be possible from the car at the parking area, best if field birds are present on the adjacent farms.

Best Seasons: Fall through early summer.

Breeding Bird Atlas Block: Saint Michaels CE

Multimedia: Former Sanctuary Chair Dominic Nucifora filmed a brief YouTube video introduction to Marengo Woods: go to <https://youtu.be/tfkmcWSEuaA>.

For maps and more information: Go to <https://birdersguidemddc.org/site/marengo-woods-mos-sanctuary/>.

Spotlight: Marengo Woods MOS Sanctuary

Continued from Page 10

The first thing you notice on entering Marengo Woods MOS Sanctuary is the scent of pine. Loblolly pines tower overhead, forming a dense canopy, and their needles form a soft, thick layer underfoot. Although you may find the traces of old logging roads, there are no marked trails, but walking through the wooded sanctuary is easy because of the level ground and the open understory. This sanctuary is unique among the ten MOS properties because its habitat is predominantly pine woods.

Marengo Woods MOS Sanctuary is located in Talbot County, in an area that is largely agricultural. Timber harvesting has long been an important part of the economy of the area, and in fact Marengo Woods and neighboring tracts have been repeatedly logged. The last logging occurred at Marengo Woods sometime prior to MOS's acquisition in 1989. The oldest trees in the sanctuary are believed to be about 70 years old.

MOS received Marengo Woods as a gift from a group of local landowners who banded together to save this land from further logging, as a memorial to two of their friends, Margaret C. Shortall and Herbert T. Austin. The names of the donors are inscribed on a handsome bronze plaque mounted on a stone marker at the corner of the sanctuary at the junction of Gregory Road and Marengo Road.

In 1990, MOS further protected the sanctuary by placing it under a permanent conservation easement held by the Maryland Environmental Trust. The Marengo Woods Sanctuary is part of a swath of over 1,600 acres running through the heart of the Miles River Neck that is protected by the Trust, including about 1,200 acres of forest that are contiguous to Marengo Woods. These woodlands have been identified by the Maryland Department of Natural Resources (DNR) as being important for support of Interior Dwelling Species. Thus Marengo Woods is part of a larger landscape that provides important wildlife habitat.

Marengo Woods is located in an area classified by MD DNR as "Tier 3 – Highly Significant for Biodiversity Conservation" under their Bionet – Biological Diversity Conservation Network initiative. Under this classification, Marengo Woods receives 5 out of 5 stars for providing habitat connectivity; for providing rare species and wildlife habitat; and for proximity to other protected land, presenting conservation opportunities that contribute to landscape scale protection, which is key for conserving healthy aquatic and terrestrial ecosystems.

It is thought that Marengo Woods may host Delmarva Fox Squirrels, which are ranked as Critically Imperiled / Highly State Rare in Maryland. Loblolly pine seeds are a known food source for the Delmarva Fox Squirrel, and because of past records of this species, the area that includes Marengo Woods has been designated by the MD DNR as a "sensitive species review area." If you see any squirrels while visiting the sanctuary, take a good look at them to determine if they may be Delmarva Fox Squirrels. Delmarva Fox Squirrels are considerably larger than ordinary Gray Squirrels – think cat-sized.

There are no streams present in Marengo Woods, but digital wetland inventory maps provided by the MD DNR show a small seasonal wetland near the western edge of the sanctuary and a larger swath of wetlands arcing across the southeast portion of the sanctuary. A habitat survey team from Partners in Flight who visited Marengo Woods in April of 2000 noted that "Aerial photography suggests these [wetlands] may be remnant headwaters to streams that were drained to make agriculture land. Evidence of past ditching efforts was also present." These wetlands support populations of amphibians and insects, adding to the biodiversity supported by the sanctuary.



Memorial Plaque at Marengo Woods Sanctuary with list of donors. Photo by Marcia Watson

Spotlight: Marengo Woods MOS Sanctuary

Continued from Page 11

Despite the absence of flowing water in the sanctuary, there is plenty of water nearby. Marengo Woods is located on the Miles River Neck, between Hunting Creek and Leeds Creek, both of which are tributaries of the Miles River. The Miles River, in turn, empties into Eastern Bay, a pocket off the eastern edge of the Chesapeake Bay just a few miles northwest of the sanctuary. Thus, the sanctuary is well situated to provide stopover habitat for birds migrating up and down the Bay and to provide viewing opportunities for flyover water birds.

The entire sanctuary is wooded and is in a mid-to-late successional stage of natural regeneration following the cessation of logging. Predominant tree species include the aforementioned loblolly pines, as well as Sweet Gum, Red Maple, oaks, tupelo, hollies and dogwood. Most of the deciduous trees are located near the perimeter of the sanctuary, where there is more sunlight available than under the dense interior canopy. Highbush blueberry and sweet pepperbush are present in the shrub layer, again mostly on the sanctuary borders. Surprisingly, there is no marked evidence of deer browse, either because there is little food that they can eat in the sanctuary, or because of hunting on neighboring lands.

Thanks to an industrious project carried out by the Talbot County Bird Club, it's now easy to visit Marengo Woods. In fall, 2021, the Bird Club cleared roadside brush and hired a professional to install a small gravel parking area on the south edge of the sanctuary, along Marengo Road. The lack of a defined parking area had until now inhibited visits - there is no parking possible along the roadsides because they have no shoulders and are ditched. Now you can just go, park, and walk.

Given the lack of trails, we cannot provide a detailed walking route for a visit; the way to bird the sanctuary is simply to walk a loop through the interior of the sanctuary, starting at the parking area on Marengo Road. The sanctuary is small enough that you won't get lost. Don't forget to spend some time under the open sky to watch for flyover birds, and to check the adjacent agricultural areas for field birds. It may be a good idea to walk (with great caution, given the lack of road shoulders) along the sanctuary's edges on Marengo and Gregory Roads, checking the shrub and tree borders for passerines.

Note that Pickering Creek Audubon Sanctuary is only about 4 miles away, and Mill Creek MOS Sanctuary is about 9 miles away, as the crow flies. These two spots combine well with Marengo Woods to make a day of birding. In addition, there are public boat launches near the Marengo Woods Sanctuary, in Tunis Mills at the bridge over Leeds Creek and at the southeast end of the Miles River Bridge on MD Route 370. Both of these locations provide good spots for a quick birding stop.

Why visit?

The eBird hotspot for Marengo Woods MOS Sanctuary lists only 58 species of birds as of January 2022, but the hotspot was not established until 2017 and only 14 checklists have been submitted since then. This sanctuary would greatly benefit from regular visitation with submission of eBird checklists in order to better document the birds and other species present, especially during the Atlas season. We encourage you to visit and submit your checklists to eBird at <https://ebird.org/hotspot/L6076244>. Please feel free to include notes on other wildlife and on plants in your checklist comments.



Marengo Woods, view of interior showing seasonal wetland. Photo by Marcia Watson

Canada Geese, Wood Ducks, and Mallards can be spotted as flyovers, and with diligence it is likely that other waterfowl will also be seen flying over on the way to nearby waterways. Likewise, Ring-billed, Laughing, and Herring Gulls and Great Blue and Green Herons are present as flyovers.

Spotlight: Marengo Woods MOS Sanctuary

Continued from Page 12

Yellow-billed Cuckoos and Chimney Swifts occur in the spring and summer, and Mourning Doves are year-round. Killdeer can be found in the adjacent fields, for example, on the south side of Marengo Road. Also be alert for Horned Larks in the fields.

In the raptor department, expect Black and Turkey Vultures, Ospreys, Bald Eagles, and Red-tailed Hawks. These might be seen overhead as well as roosting in trees in the sanctuary. A Red-shouldered Hawk would not be surprising. You might also watch for American Kestrels on the wires near farm fields.

Year-round, woodpeckers reported from the sanctuary include Red-bellied, Downy, Hairy, Pileated, and Northern Flicker. There are also Mourning Doves, Blue Jays, American and Fish Crows, Carolina Chickadees, Tufted Titmice, Carolina Wrens, Northern Mockingbirds, Eastern Bluebirds, American Robins, American Goldfinches, European Starlings, Red-winged Blackbirds, Common Grackles, and Northern Cardinals.

Spring and summer birds have included Brown Creeper, Eastern Wood-Pewee, Eastern Phoebe, Great Crested Flycatcher, Eastern Kingbird, Red-eyed Vireo, White-breasted Nuthatch, Purple Martin, Brown Thrasher, House Wren, Brown-headed Cowbird, Chipping Sparrow, Pine Warbler, Blue Grosbeak, and Indigo Bunting. Wintering birds have included Ruby-crowned Kinglet, Red-breasted Nuthatch, Dark-eyed Junco, White-throated Sparrow, and Yellow-rumped Warbler.

For comparison, note that a short distance to the north, the eBird hotspot for the Tunis Mills Area (<https://ebird.org/hotspot/L168632>) lists 129 species. Many of the species from the Tunis Mills list are also expected at Marengo Woods and no doubt there will be additions to the Marengo Woods species list as more eBird checklists are submitted.

When visiting, please help by taking photos, not just of birds, but also of the landscape as well as the sanctuary's other animals and plants. Such photos can be posted on iNaturalist or on the public Google Maps location for the sanctuary (<https://goo.gl/maps/MX6g12YEWNsRoMX1A>). As simple as this seems, photos showing the habitat and wildlife help us with sanctuary management by documenting changes over time.

Directions

Marengo Woods MOS Sanctuary is located near the community of Tunis Mills on the Miles River Neck, west of Easton in Talbot County. The sanctuary has a reputation for being remote and difficult to reach, but in fact it is only 5 miles from downtown Easton and can be reached by state numbered routes for most of the way. The directions given below show a route that is not necessarily the shortest but offers the best roads and fewest turns.

From US Route 50 on the outskirts of Easton: Take MD Route 322 westbound for approximately 2 miles, then, if coming from the north, turn right to go west on MD Route 33 (this will be a left turn if you're driving from the south). Follow Route 33 for 1.7 miles and turn right to go north on MD Route 370/Unionville Road. Follow Unionville Road north for 1.5 miles, crossing the Miles River. At the first crossroad after the Miles River Bridge, turn left to go southwest on Miles River Road. In just under 0.4 miles, at the first road on the right, turn right onto Marengo Road. The small gravel parking area for the sanctuary will be on the north side of Marengo Road, on your right in about 1.7 miles, before you reach the intersection



Marengo Woods, view of interior showing traces of old logging road. Photo by Marcia Watson

Spotlight: Marengo Woods MOS Sanctuary

Continued from Page 13

with Gregory Road. If using a navigation system, enter "26216 Marengo Road, Easton, MD 21061." There is no mailbox or other marker with the street number, but that address will get you close to the parking area, which is set back alongside the woods of the sanctuary.



Marengo Woods Satellite Map and Parking Lot Inset Photo.png

Map prepared by Marcia Watson using DNR's MERLIN mapping system. Parking lot photo by Bettye Maki.

About the authors: Bettye Maki is the President of the Talbot County Bird Club and the Sanctuary Manager for Marengo Woods. Marcia Watson is the President of the Patuxent Bird Club and the secretary of the MOS Sanctuary Committee.

2021: YEAR OF RENEWED HOPE (AND THE BIRDS DID NOT DISAPPOINT!)

Welcome to my 2nd Annual Year in Review. by Hugh David Fleischmann

It's that time of year again when I review all the avian delights that enlightened us throughout Maryland in 2021. If 2020 was a year for the birds, 2021 was a year for bird lovers. Although 2020 was very restrictive and made birding difficult; thankfully, in 2021 we were able to go out birding again. And 2021 was quite a year!

No beating around the bush here. Maryland's best bird of the year is first! My opinion, of course, but I believe most birders in the state would agree - the Kirtland's Warbler that graced us at Swann Park, in Baltimore City, for six days! It was originally located by Ramsay Koury, on October 4th. Several hundred people from all over the country came for a chance to enjoy this truly unique, but off-course, rarity. I felt blessed and very lucky to have had the opportunity. ■■

There are multiple reasons why this bird is truly so special. First, it was Maryland's 1st record of the species. Second, there are only 4800 individual birds of the species left in the world.

The entire species can be found breeding in 11+- counties in Michigan and about 3+- counties in Wisconsin. That's it folks, very limited breeding range!! They like Jack Pines that are 5-15 years old and abandon the area when the trees get older than twenty. The species was on the brink of extinction, when, in the early 70's, multiple conservation programs kicked in to help save the bird. The species was down to under 200 breeding males. Now, thanks to successful managed tree harvesting and breeding programs that stop nest parasitism from Brown-headed Cowbirds, the species has been taken off the endangered list. All 4800 of the species migrate to the Bahamas for the winter. Few but not many, have strayed off-course and landed between the great lakes breeding region and the eastern coastal states of the US, enroute to the Bahamas. Maryland was one of the last states, on that path, to record a 1st record. A true long-awaited passerine treat for MD.

2021 Maryland Birding Review

Continued from page 14

The year started the same way it ended with a spectacular rainbow-colored bird delighting the masses. The Painted Bunting that ended 2020 continued into 2021. The bird was enjoyed by well over a thousand people, and it became an instant celebrity. And why not, if I looked like that, I would want people taking my picture. Over the last several years, the breeding range of this species has increased dramatically. It's only a matter of time until Maryland records its first breeding Painted Buntings. And how amazing will that be!! Thanks to Christopher Coleman for the fantastic find.



Painted Bunting Photo by Hugh David Fleischmann

In most years, Maryland is lucky enough to be graced with one first state record. In 2021; we were graced with five first state records. Pretty spectacular. The year started on January 5th, when Suzette Stitely, Alicia & J Bachman and Vince De Sanctis were at the Ocean City Inlet, looking for ducks, gulls, and winter rarities. They noticed something unique flying in from the south. With its bright red bill and extremely long wispy tail plumes, it was unmistakable. As Suzette and friends are accomplished birders, they knew they had to get pictures of this bird. Turned out to be MD's first Red-billed Tropicbird. Unfortunately, the bird decided to continue its flight northbound and gave no other birders an opportunity to enjoy a truly spectacular sighting. Great spot Suzette and friends!

These birds are found in warm open ocean waters, often far from shore. This tropicbird breeds on remote coastal islands or occasionally coastal mainland, of the Pacific, Mexico, and the Caribbean. As well, it is an occasional visitor of the Atlantic and Pacific coasts of Florida and California. For The past 17 years there has been one of these birds summering on a small island off the coast of Vinalhaven Island, Maine.

Rarely seen from land, Suzette and crew were definitely at the right place at the right time!



Red-billed Tropicbird Photo by Suzette Stitely

The chronologically 2nd of Maryland's first state records, on April 17, 2021, was a Zone-tailed Hawk. It was only seen by the original finders. Baltimore Counties most infamous rarity seekers, Kim Tomko and Keith Costley. They were at Marshy Point Nature Center when they saw a unique raptor perched on the trail. They knew they had a rarity and had to get documentation. They managed a few photos and then the bird was gone. They were the only two people known to see this bird.

The Zone-tailed Hawk breeds from northern South America to Arizona, Texas, and New Mexico, where it is partially migratory. Strays are occasionally reported from California and Nevada, but not found often outside of these states. It is believed to mimic the V-shaped wing pattern of Turkey Vultures, taking advantage of prey that is desensitized to the presence of vultures. A magnificent raptor that was just using Baltimore as a quick resting stop enroute to its southerly breeding grounds. How it found its way thru Baltimore remains a mystery. But at least two people got to see this bird on its wayward journey.



Zone-tailed Hawk Photo by Kim Tomko

2021 Maryland Birding Review

Continued from page 15

Maryland had five first state records this year. The fourth one was on July 25th, when a Little Egret was found by Mikey Lutmerding. This is an especially challenging species to identify as it is very similar to our local wader, the Snowy Egret. The Little Egret usually has two plumes that are wispy feathers emanating from the back of the head, which don't show themselves until the birds reach adult breeding plumage. The gray lores of the juvenile are a distinguishing field mark. The species is widely found throughout southern Europe, southern Asia, and Africa, with a smaller population in Australia.

Mikey & two friends were at North Beach Marsh, in Calvert County, when he noticed an oddly-postured and structured egret, which, upon closer inspection, revealed gray lores and a slightly longer bill than that of a Snowy Egret. The bird then flew into Anne Arundel County where it was pursued and seen and more closely inspected by four other birders, Dan Haas, Josh Emm and the Czaplaks. Further inspection of many photos sealed the identification.



Little Egret Photo by Mikey Lutmerding

And as if the year couldn't get any more exciting the fifth and final of Maryland's first state records in 2021 happened on December 26th, when Clive Harris found Maryland's first Mottled Duck, another southern species making its way northbound. The bird was relocated on the 27th and has been seen by many observers. At the time of this writing, it was still being seen. They can be readily seen in their non-migratory, normal range along the Gulf Coast, from Florida to Texas.

There is some question as to when the bird originally showed up. There are pictures of an American Black Duck from November, 2020, and March, 2021, that look strikingly similar to a Mottled Duck. So, it's possible the duck has been in Maryland for one or more years undetected. It makes one wonder what other birds are

out there and never identified! Maybe it has even bred and created its own hybrid family, as Mottled Ducks are known to have a soft spot for Mallards and American Black Ducks.



Mottled Duck Photo by Clive Harris

It seems that every few years Maryland gets an irruption of birds that are primarily seen in the Florida and the southeastern United States. I remember about three years ago when we had a lot of these same birds. This year Maryland was treated to many birds that if you were in South Florida right now, you would be seeing as commonplace birds. We had Limpkin, Roseate Spoonbills, Wood Storks, Swallowtail Kite and Mississippi Kites.

Several of these southern birds were very notable for Maryland. The Limpkin found by Cheryl & Michael Saylor, on August 15th, at Snyder's Landing, on the C&O Canal, was Maryland's 4th record. It graced the banks of the Potomac River for a week and was enjoyed by many. A most unique wader, with its long-speckled neck and huge slightly curved bill. They can be seen on the side of the road all over southern Florida, often in the company of Ibis's.



Limpkin Photo by Mark Hoffman

2021 Maryland Birding Review

Continued from page 16

Roseate Spoonbills are becoming more common away from the south, and ten different sightings occurred throughout the MD/DC area. Maryland's 7th & 8th or more

record graced Baltimore and several other counties. Two different Baltimore County locations. A one-day wonder was found on July 20th by Stan Arnold at Southwest Area Park and a longer-staying one at Loch Raven, Paper Mill Flats, was found by the infamous duo of Kim Tomko and Keith Costley. The Loch Raven bird stayed around for three weeks and gave many people distant views. Were these birds actually the same bird? No one will ever know for sure, but it sure is fun to think about. Frederick County had an eight-day visitor, found by Andy Wilson, on August 16th. And Washington DC finally had its 1st ever record on August 1 at Kenilworth Park and Aquatic Gardens.



Roseate Spoonbill Photo by JB Churchill

Wood Storks were seen in multiple places throughout the state in 2021. One was found at Halethorpe Ponds, in Baltimore County, on August 16th by Nico Sarbanes. It was seen there by only a couple of handfuls of people and then took flight and flew into Anne Arundel County, to the delight of the Baltimore County birders on site. Two counties for the price of one, not a bad day for a county lister. A longer-staying Wood Stork at Pennyfield Locks, in Montgomery County, was seen from September 2-21. Calvert County joined the party when one was found on the side of the highway and eventually flew to a nearby pond. Rarity guru Mikey Lutmerding struck again when he saw the bird, literally, off the exit ramp of the highway.

Both Wood Storks and Roseate Spoonbills are becoming less and less rare north of Florida. This will be about the 20th appearance of Wood Storks in Maryland.

Of all the southern US birds that made their way to Maryland this year, there is one that is extremely significant to Maryland. A Mississippi Kite was found on June 12, by Jared Fisher. These fierce raptors are seen throughout parts of Maryland most years, so the sighting

itself was not what made it so important. Read on....



Wood Stork Photo by Daniel Sloan

The bird was seen flying while Jared was driving in Montgomery County. He followed the bird to a tree outside of an elementary school in Rockville. The next day, someone sought out the bird and found a second bird, and a nest. This represented only the second time Mississippi Kites have bred in the State of Maryland. These Kites were seen until August 25th, and they were successful in bringing one baby kite into this world. It represents a major shift in the breeding range of this species. Pretty fascinating. And the truly unique part was the public at large could witness this incredible natural behavior and watch the parents feed and care for their baby. Thanks to all of the people that enjoyed seeing these birds and giving them the space they needed to feel comfortable starting a family in Montgomery County.

What do you think will be the next new species to make Maryland its new breeding grounds?

Also, about kites: I would be remiss in not mentioning the awesome, incredibly cool Swallow-tailed Kite, found on Kent Island, in Queen Anne's County, from August 2nd-15th. This incredible raptor was feeding in the recently harvested fields that were loaded with their



Swallow-tailed Kite Photo by JB Churchill

favorite foods. They feed on many small animals including insects, dragonflies, snakes, frogs, and small birds. What's cool is that they "eat on the wing" meaning they eat while flying. It represented the 18th time that this special bird has graced the borders of Maryland. Again, my opinion; this is one of the most striking, unique-looking raptors in

2021 Maryland Birding Review

Continued from page 17

all the American Birding Association (ABA) area, maybe even in the world. See picture; am I wrong?

If this isn't enough rarities already, Maryland was not even close to being done with vagrants, in 2021. Maryland had a slew of birds that are normally found in the western United States. Some of these birds are very rare; others have been seen in the state multiple times. The first of these birds was a Western Tanager, identified by a homeowner in Sykesville. It represented the 18th state record of this bird. It was found by the homeowner on January 29th and stuck around until February 21st. A second Western Tanager was found by Daniel Irons on November 17th. That bird was only seen by Daniel. Expect many more rarities in the future being found by younger experts Daniel and his brother, Jonathan! Daniel ran the fall Turkey Point morning flight count in Cecil County and recorded many species, most in flight. Thank you, Daniel.



Western Tanager Photo by Hugh David Fleischmann

This next bird that surprised and delighted many Maryland Birders was Maryland's 3rd ever Tropical Kingbird, found on October 28 at Blackwater National Wildlife Refuge in Cambridge, Maryland. It was seen daily through December 11th. It was an extremely accommodating bird. This beautiful bright yellow flycatcher gave many people a chance to view and photograph it, easily seen along Wildlife Drive and the visitor center. It stayed until December 12th. Its normal range is Southeastern Arizona, parts of Texas, along the Rio Grande River, and northern Mexico.



Tropical Kingbird Photo by Suzette Stitely

The next western species was a Rufous Hummingbird, making its 19th Maryland appearance. This beauty showed up at Russ Ruffing's home in Howard County. Often confused with Allen's Hummingbirds, this specific individual was professionally banded, and its identity was definitively obtained. This bird would normally be found breeding in western North America and wintering in Mexico. Interesting fact: the Rufous Hummingbird has the longest migration route of all North American Hummingbirds.



Rufous Hummingbird Photo by Russ Ruffing

The rarities kept coming. Another Howard County bird was found at Howard Patterson's home. It was a White-winged Crossbill and was seen at Howard's home

2021 Maryland Birding Review

Continued from page 18

from March 20 thru April 29th. A seventh Maryland record, this crossbill is a northern species in the finch family. It has a very unique twisted bill that is specifically designed to retrieve seeds from assorted evergreen cones.



White-winged Crossbill Photo by Howard Patterson

On October 16th, Maryland's 5th record of the very cool Fork-tailed Flycatcher was found in Anne Arundel County. This one-day wonder was found by a homeowner looking out her window. Wouldn't we all like to have this beauty as a yard bird. I know I would.

And 2021 started with another 2020 holdout. The Western Grebe and its partner, found in December, 2020 by Alina Martin and Johnnie Ramos. These birds stuck around until February 4th and delighted many state and county listers

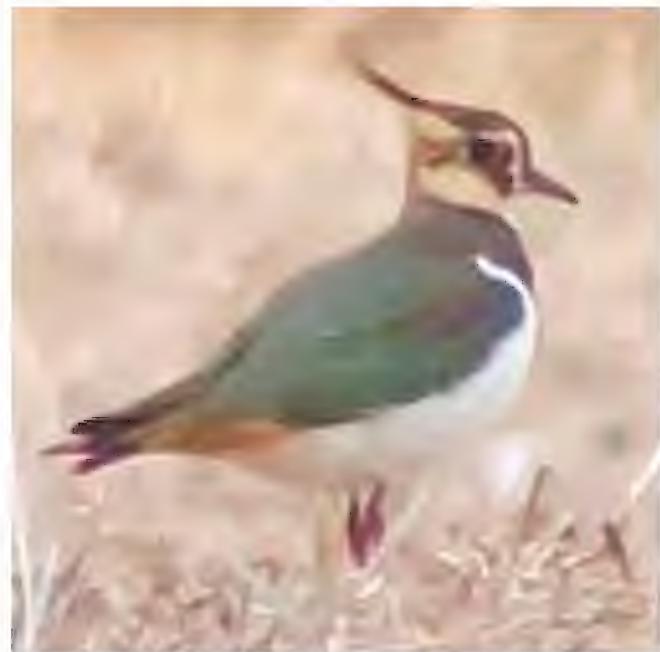
by being such an easy tick for two consecutive years! And while Alina was on a roll, on January 23, she found a Common Redpoll at Northpoint State Park for a brief couple hour visit. Alina found it foraging in the parking lot with a flock of finches. It only stuck around for a couple of hours as it flitted around the parking lot. This species is normally found in the cold northern states and Canada. While it is not the rarest of species in Maryland, it is always an extremely special and highly sought-after species. This was the 30th time Common Redpoll has been reported in Maryland. And many of those reports are flyover and seldom is their photographic evidence. Nice job Alina!

Finally, the last rarity to be found in Maryland, 2021 occurred on December 21st. Maryland's 3rd record of Northern Lapwing was found by Jim Wilkinson, in Queen Anne's County, at a farm pond off Rt. 309. At the time of this writing, the unique shore bird was still present, and being seen by hundreds of birders from around the



Common Redpoll Photo by Alina Martin

country. There was a slight irruption of this species, as several were seen along the Atlantic coastal states. Unfortunately, our local bird, was never that close to the viewing area, so pictures are not the best. This very uniquely patterned and colored bird is a widespread shorebird throughout Europe and Asia, with an occasional wandering to the extreme northeastern United States, with Maryland being one of its most southern locations.



Northern Lapwing Photo by Dan Haas

Wow, what an incredible year 2021 was for both the novice and advanced birders. From the casual observer and the obsessed lister alike, Mother Nature did not disappoint. It just goes to show you; you never know what is around you. 2021 was such an incredible year, I can only hope that 2022 gives us half of what she delivered in 2021! I dare Mother Nature to treat us to another banner year in 2022.

2021 Maryland Birding Review

Continued from page 18



Above

Mississippi Kite (adult) Photo by Jared Fisher

Below

Mississippi Kite (Immature) Photo by Jared Fisher



Wild Turkeys in Maryland: Restoration Success and Future Uncertainty

By Bob Long, Wild Turkey and Upland Game Bird Project Manager, Maryland Department of Natural Resources, Wildlife and Heritage Service

Although spending time outdoors always provides an opportunity to witness amazing sights and sounds, the cold days of winter can often seem desolate and silent. But as the days lengthen and the ground thaws, we welcome the familiar signs of the impending spring - the choruses of spring peepers, songbirds rehearsing their lines, and, if

we are lucky, the booming gobble of a wild turkey proclaiming his presence to all. Wild turkeys are now a common part of Maryland's fauna, but that has not always been true. Populations were precariously close to extirpation just a half century ago before making their remarkable comeback.

Early accounts suggest wild turkeys were plentiful in pre-colonial times. But like many wildlife species, populations declined precipitously in the era following European settlement due to unregulated hunting and land clearing. By 1919, with only a few hundred birds remaining, State Game Warden Lee LeCompte said "Wild Turkeys, outside a few sections in the Western counties of our State, are practically extinct." A hunting prohibition was mandated, and turkeys were propagated and released by the thousands in well-intentioned, but futile, attempts to restore the population. The liberated pen-raised turkeys lacked the instincts needed to survive in the wild and populations remained very low through the 1960s.

It wasn't until the 1970s, with the advent of new technology and ideas, that restoration of turkey populations became a reality statewide. Wild turkeys were trapped in the few areas where they remained, then translocated to other parts of the state with suitable habitat, where they could establish new populations. Over the next three decades, 1,129 wild turkeys were translocated by the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) with assistance from partners including the National Wild Turkey Federation, setting the stage for a dramatic comeback. Populations soared and by the year 2000, nearly 30,000 Wild Turkeys were estimated to be residing in Maryland. During this time, turkeys became a common sight in most of the rural areas of the state, especially on the Eastern Shore and in the western mountains. The population plateaued for about a decade, but then continued growing, with the birds even finding their way into many parks and green spaces of suburbia. Today, turkeys are common in every county and the statewide population numbers over 40,000.

Following the tremendous success of turkey restoration efforts, it may seem that we could "rest on our laurels," expecting to enjoy abundant populations well into the future. But there are signs that we need to remain cautious and keep close tabs on this bird to ensure that history doesn't repeat itself. While numbers are still rising in some parts of the state, turkeys have declined in others. For example, in Dorchester County, data suggest a 40% decline in turkey numbers since their peak in the early 2000s. Other Eastern states have noticed even more widespread decreases in turkey populations.

Wild Turkeys in Maryland

Continued from page 20

The cause of these declines remains unclear, and studies are planned or underway in Maryland and surrounding states. But what we do know is that fewer young turkeys, called poult, are surviving to adulthood than in the past. Turkey populations, like most birds, are very dependent on the annual production of young to replace the losses of adult birds due to predation and other causes. Since 1993, the DNR has coordinated a Summer Wild Turkey Observation Survey, enlisting the help of agency staff and volunteers to report turkey sightings during the months of July and August. The results show that the number of poult produced per adult female (hen) has declined significantly, from about 3.5 poult per hen in the early 2000s to 2.5 poult per hen in recent years. Although the change may seem small, it may explain the difference between a stable or increasing population and one that is declining.

The ultimate cause of this observed low reproductive success is not yet evident, but a look at the ecology of the birds may provide clues. Wild turkey females breed in April-June, laying a clutch of 9-13 eggs in a ground nest over about a two week period. The hen will then incubate the clutch, day and night, for approximately 28 days. For her to be successful, the nest will need to remain undiscovered by predators for a total of about 6 weeks. The hen will lead the poult away from the nest soon after hatching, ideally to an insect-rich area to provide nourishment for the growing young. Poult cannot fly well for several weeks and are very vulnerable to both the elements and predators.

Predators of all shapes and sizes can wreck the plan. Foxes, bobcats, raccoons, skunks, opossums, snakes, feral cats, crows, and others are always looking for an easy meal of eggs and, in some cases, the hen herself. Only about 25% of nests will successfully hatch. For this reason, the availability of good nesting habitat is paramount. Thickets, old fields, and other brushy vegetation provide better concealment than open woods devoid of undergrowth. Once hatched, attacks can come from both mammalian predators as well as avian predators, so habitat becomes even more important. Ideally, good brooding areas will consist of grasses and forbs that support robust insect populations and provide overhead cover for concealment from hawks and owls.

Unfortunately this type of habitat is much less common than in the past. Brushy, weedy, "early-successional" habitat continues to be lost to development, clean farming

practices, and the maturation of forests. The disappearance of these important habitats may be to blame for the low nest success and poult survival we have observed in turkeys. Other species, such as northern bobwhite, require these habitats year round, not only during the reproductive season. As a result, the numbers of bobwhite and other grassland-dependent species are critically low. It is not coincidental that many properties still supporting bobwhite quail are also home to very high turkey populations - Turkey nesting and brood-rearing is most successful in the same habitat that quail depend on. Various habitat management options are available for landowners and land managers to provide diverse habitats for a wide range of wildlife species. These practices will become even more important to consider if we want to stabilize declines of many wildlife species.

Fortunately turkey poult grow quickly and predation concerns lessen by autumn. Larger flocks will form, typically comprised of several hens with their surviving young, which are now nearly indistinguishable from the adults. Attention shifts towards food resources and sometimes flocks will range quite a distance to locate high-quality forages such as acorns or residual grain in agricultural fields. During fall and winter, turkeys will often be found in larger blocks of forest which provide both secure roosts and food. Forest conservation and establishment practices can be important in areas where mature forest is lacking. Maintaining diverse habitats is the key to sustaining Wild Turkey populations as well as many other wildlife species.

The comeback of the Wild Turkey is a true conservation success story. Birders, landowners, hunters, and nearly every Marylander now has the opportunity to observe a majestic tom displaying for a harem of hens in the spring. Or to witness a brood of young poult busily pecking for grasshoppers along a field edge. Hopefully Wild Turkeys will continue to thrive despite a changing landscape and new challenges. But we will need to remain vigilant to ensure these magnificent birds remain an abundant and valued part of our ecosystem.

To participate in the annual Summer Wild Turkey Observation Survey, or to learn more about habitat management options for landowners, contact Bob Long at bob.long@maryland.gov.



ANNE ARUNDEL

Anne Arundel Bird Club's continuing project on Chimney Swift nesting towers

As reported previously in the Yellowthroat, the Anne Arundel Bird Club has launched a project to install Chimney Swift nesting towers in parks in the Annapolis area. The purpose for creating towers is to address the two-thirds decline in Swift numbers over the past five decades by providing substitute nesting sites for the many chimneys that have been rendered unusable for various reasons, such as capping or flue linings that present surfaces on which Swifts are unable to build their nests. One such tower was built in Kinder Farm Park (KFP) by volunteers in the park's Wood Shop. The nesting tower was constructed on a design modified from that published in the book by Paul and Georgina Kyle, "Chimney Swift Towers - New Habitat for America's Mysterious Birds. A Construction Guide". The design incorporates modifications to improve stability in windy conditions.

As part of the commemoration of the organization's Centennial in 2016, the Audubon Society of Western Pennsylvania (ASWP) contracted to have 100 nesting towers for Chimney Swifts erected in the nine Allegheny County Parks. The parks are scattered throughout various locations in the county surrounding Pittsburgh. The nesting towers were also constructed on a design modified from that of the Kyles'.

With the prospect of building additional nesting towers in other Anne Arundel County parks, it seemed advantageous to compare the differences in the design modifications and construction methods between those of KFP and ASWP. My wife, Joy Chambers, and I went to visit Sarah Koenig, the ASWP Conservation Director, to obtain data compiled about the nesting activity recorded from 2018 to 2020 in their towers. According to her data, during that interval swifts had built nests in about 20% of the towers ASWP monitored.

We spent three days examining some of the successful towers in several of the Allegheny Parks. Almost all were erected by the contractor hired by ASWP, and those were virtually identical in design. Construction of 100 towers

permitted reductions in lumber required for each tower and other economies in materials cost. Each tower displayed two didactic signs to explain the purpose of the tower and to provide information about swifts. We had obtained copies of those two ASWP signs for the KFP tower and added two more from other Audubon Societies. Our materials' costs alone for the KFP tower exceeded the approximate \$2,000 per tower that ASWP paid for combined materials and labor.

Our other hope in visiting Pittsburgh was that we might learn something about factors in the placement of the ASWP towers that contributed to the differences in their success with respect to achieving swift nesting activity. Unfortunately, ASWP has not as yet been able to provide an explanation. None was evident from what we observed, but at the time we were there the swifts had long since migrated to South America.



ASWP Chimney Swift tower, Allegheny County, Pennsylvania

Photo by Peter Bungay

We installed a camera inside the KFP tower to capture images of swifts if any entered it to investigate the possibilities of its use for nesting. The camera we chose has not performed satisfactorily, so we are searching for a more appropriate replacement. Because of an offer for financial assistance from the Friends of Quiet Waters Park, the Anne Arundel Bird Club is anticipating the erection of a tower there, duplicating the one in KFP. A large existing field at Quiet Waters is being converted to a wildflower meadow. A site adjacent to the meadow in the shade of a

stand of established trees has been chosen as a possible location for the new tower.

Peter Bungay, Treasurer, AABC



Chimney Swift tower, Kinder Park

Photo by Peter Bungay

CECIL COUNTY

The Maryland Biodiversity Project, as was written up in the last edition of this periodical, conducted a Fall Morning Flight Count at Turkey Point in Elk Neck State Park. The project ran from August 1st until November 15th. *Daniel Irons* was the lead counter. Over 400 hours of observations tallied over two hundred thousand birds. Over 39,000 American Robins and over 62,000 Common Grackles were counted as part of the over 200 species of birds observed flying over Turkey Point this fall. That is just amazing. To see the data first hand and read the detailed reports go to Marylandbiodiversity.com.

Sean McCandless tells me he is in Pensacola, FL looking at Snowy Plovers. We will have to wait until next time to hear the full story. Meanwhile, *Maryanne Dolan* brings us up to date on several adventures since she checked in with us last time.

Several intrepid and fully-vaccinated MOS members set out this summer in search of western birds. And find them, we did! First on the list was Montana in late June. The trip was led by Josh Engel and Nathan Goldberg of Red

Hill Birding. MOS members included *Scott Young, David Sandler, Tex Wilkins, Woody and Rae DuBois, Charles Hopkins, Allen and Dorothy Paugh, Evelyn Ralston and Maryanne Dolan*. We topped out at 174 species with Williamson's Sapsucker, Lazuli Bunting, Sage Grouse, Black Rosy Finch, and Calliope Hummingbird voted the top 5 best birds. But there were way, way more birds to delight in. It was a great trip and one we will be sure to repeat.

September took us to the Pacific Northwest where *David and Karen Sandler, Olga Onishchenko, Igor Taimassov and Maryanne Dolan* joined Alex Lamoreaux of Wildside Nature Tours in a loop around the Olympic Peninsula. We topped out at 144 species of birds, with many of them lifers. A highlight was a pelagic trip, where we found an abundance of albatrosses, fulmars, shearwaters, storm-petrels and skuas. But the scene-stealers were the mammals. We were charmed by the Harbor Seals, California Sea Lions, North American Sea Otters, Steller's Sea Lions and Humpback Whales. It was not easy pulling Olga away from what quickly became her favorite activity: mammal watching.

And finally, November brought our last trip for 2021 – the Rio Grand Valley. *Tawna Mertz, Dee Brown, Beth Kantrowitz, Alison Shelton, Joan Campbell, and Jerry Hanline* joined Alex Lamoreaux from Wildside Nature Tours. As expected, the birds were plentiful and fabulous, with a number of life birds chalked up by the participants. Texas is definitely on the itinerary for future trips. *Maryanne Dolan*

Russell Kovach has managed and participated in the Elkton Christmas Bird Count for years, but all good things must come to an end. As he has moved out of the area, *Ken Drier* has stepped up to the plate and will take charge of this moving forward. The 2021 count was co-directed by Russ with Ken looking over his shoulder, so to speak, to learn the ropes. The Cecil Bird Club would like to thank Russell for his enduring commitment to this project over many years.

The officers of the Cecil Bird Club, *Maryanne Dolan, Ken Drier, and Paula Conoscenti*, met to discuss ways to move the club forward in the new year. Maryanne and Ken will be working on a new club newsletter that has been absent for some time now. Making greater use of the Cecil's Club FB page to attract new members and volunteers and getting members out in the field more are a few of the ideas being discussed. As the new COVID variant grabs hold of the county, time will tell whether face-to-face meetings and field trips will again be placed on hold. *Ken Drier*

MONTGOMERY COUNTY

Snowy Owl

By now, many Washington-area birders are aware that a Snowy Owl caused a sensation in early January by regularly

showing up about dark at the Columbus Circle outside Union Station. It appears that the owl was first reported to eBird by MBC member *David Moulton* on January 3. "[At] 7:15 pm, SNOW harried the pigeons in front of Union Station while I was waiting to pick up daughter from train. It landed briefly on top of the head of one of the grand entrance sculptures, then flew towards the Senate buildings. "David's report launched a flurry of sensational owl sightings by birders and photographers eager to see the Arctic wonder in such a monumental urban situation. A small sample of one evening's email commentary: "SNOW on flagpole in front of station (Kerry Snyder) ...Owl just seen flying over again, didn't land (Jack Adams)...Dog on leash was chasing a rat near fountain (Frank Klotz) ...Owl clearly shifting position to track the rat-chasing dog (Klotz) ... After perching on fountain globe and a light post for just a few minutes, SNOW caught a rat on the ground and flew off toward Postal Museum with its prey (Klotz)."

In a more measured tone, our neighbor and MBC member *Bart Bingenheimer* wrote his birding friends the following on January 9: "I arrived around 5:45pm, and joined a small crowd of birders with binos, scopes, and fancy cameras along the sidewalk facing the Columbus Fountain and the front of Union Station. After about 20 minutes, the owl flew in from the northwest. It perched for perhaps five minutes on the southwest corner of Union Station and then flew down to its preferred perch on top of the Columbus Fountain. Photographing it was tricky because it was dark, but I was able to get a couple of shots. At some point of course it will move on, but for the time being it appears to be following a regular schedule of showing up between 5:45 and 6:15 and perching on the Columbus Fountain. It was a life bird for me, so I was pretty ecstatic!"



Snowy Owl Photo by Bart Bingenheimer

Florida

For *Mike Bowen* and *Anne Cianni*, an invitation to use a friend's condo on the Indian River Lagoon in Vero Beach,

Florida, in November proved too attractive to resist, and so they headed down to the Atlantic coast of Florida to spend a week birding there, followed by a couple of days in St. Petersburg on the Gulf coast. "The golf club resort where we stayed in Vero was visited by many species, most notable of which were the pair of Egyptian Geese (countable?) that insisted on sitting in the middle of the road every time we drove in or out. The first birding visit in Indian River County was to the Wabasso Scrub Reserve, a reliable place to see the declining Florida Scrub-jay, followed by a long, rewarding walk around Pelican Island NWR, the first national wildlife refuge in the country, where herons and ibises were all over the place.



Florida Scrub Jay Photo by Michael Bowen

The visit to the boardwalk at the Sebastian Inlet State Park in Brevard County brought close views of Willets and Ruddy Turnstones mingling with the fishermen and Caspian Terns at what must be one of the top coastal birding areas in the entire country. The West Regional Wetlands in Indian River County gave us Mottled Duck and lots of Common Gallinules and Blue-winged Teal, in addition to many White Peacock butterflies.

One day – a very wet one – we visited the Kissimmee Prairie Reserve, where Eastern Meadowlarks sang untroubled by the elements, Wild Turkeys strutted about unbothered by people, and a Crested Caracara perched so close it was a challenge to focus the camera. On one long day, we drove down to Palm Beach County to visit Wakodahatchee and Green Cay Reserves, surely the best places in the entire country to photograph water birds. Later, on our way to St. Pete, we stopped at Circle B Bar Ranch near Lakeland, a place recommended to us by DC birder friends. It proved to be so "birdy" that we stopped again on our way back from St. Petersburg to Orlando airport. Top birds there were Limpkins, Black-bellied Whistling-Ducks, and multiple Little Blue Herons and Common Gallinules. When in St. Pete, we took a friend

and former neighbor to Fort de Soto Park, where we were able to show her some delightful birds such as Reddish Egret (jumping around like a soul possessed), Piping Plover, and Sandwich Tern. A fly-over there of a Swallow-tailed Kite was the bird of the trip! A couple of nearby Nanday Parakeets were lifers for both birders.



Crested Caracara Photo by Michael Bowen



Purple Swamphen Photo by Michael Bowen

France

Recent new club member, *Vickie Baily*, has spent the early winter in France with her daughter, son-in-law and new grandson, Hugo, who was born on December 1st. Vickie said she was mostly involved with helping the new parents, but found a bit of time to slip out the backdoor to the canal and tow-path on which her daughter lives. "So far I've seen 15 new life birds on this trip! I've been making visits to my daughter in France for four years now, and am up to 52 birds for the Fontainebleau area. It's been hard to miss out on the birds you're all seeing, like the shrike, the Snowy Owl, the Mottled Duck and the Rufous Hummingbird, but I did get to see (many) Northern

Lapwings! There are about 50 of them wintering on a Lake near my daughter's house. I might even choose them as my favorite new birds. Other contenders would be the Common and Red-crested Pochards, Tufted Ducks, and Graylag Geese."



Northern Lapwing Photos by Vickie Baily

And, starting 2022 off with a colossal bang, David Fleischmann took this extraordinary photo in January 2022 of the Steller's Sea Eagle in Maine.





IN MEMORIAM

LESLIE McGAVIN CLIFTON

**Marcia Watson remembers former club president
Leslie Fisher**

The Cecil Bird Club lost one of its founding members when Leslie McGavin Clifton passed away at age 61 on November 16, 2021. Leslie Fisher, as she was known at the time, was part of a small circle of birding friends who helped establish the club in 1994, and she served as its third president, from 1999 through 2002.

Leslie was a tireless promoter of the fledgling Cecil Bird Club, and during her presidency, the membership of the young club grew rapidly. Leslie had many innovative ideas for publicizing the club's activities. It was Leslie who started the club's tradition of hosting an information table at community events, and she herself enjoyed staffing those tables. Her friendly smile drew people in and made them

feel welcome. Leslie made sure that she kept a stack of printed club brochures in her car, and when driving

around the county, she would stop in at libraries, bookstores, and feed stores to keep their supplies of brochures stocked.

Leslie, among other early members of the Cecil Bird Club, served as one of the official counters at the Turkey Point Hawk Watch, established by the club in 1994. She also was responsible for recruiting volunteer counters and developing the staffing schedule. Her powers of persuasion served the club well.

Leslie was an enthusiastic and dedicated learner, and never gave up on an identification when looking at or listening to an unknown bird. Her friend Marcia Watson says that the two of them got many a case of poison ivy when bush-whacking to catch sight of some unknown singing bird. It was Leslie and Marcia's custom to turn their Spring Count into a Big Day across Cecil County, covering it from top to bottom. They always started with Whips at Elk Neck State Forest before dawn and ended with rails at Bethel WMA after dark. Their Cecil Big Day record from 1998 still stands in the top spot for the county, at 136 species.

Leslie especially enjoyed annual birding trips to Cape May and the Avalon Sea Watch, as well as winter trips to Ocean City and the lower Delaware shore. Throughout the spring and summer, Leslie made almost weekly trips to Bombay Hook and the Delaware Bayshore, often accompanied by Marcia Watson and Ellen Short, a friend from the Delmarva Ornithological Society. She also enjoyed exploring the Carey Run and Irish Grove MOS Sanctuaries, and was a regular attendee at the MOS annual conventions. She participated annually in the Rock Run and in the Elkton Christmas Bird Counts

She was born Leslie McGavin in Ontario, Canada, and first came to the US when she worked for a thoroughbred race horse trainer who brought his Canadian stable to Florida for the winters. Later, she moved to Maryland to continue her work with race horses, but eventually gave up the hard life of riding horses, rain or shine, to take a job as an aide at Calvert Manor Nursing Home in Rising Sun, where she was employed for many years. While working at Calvert Manor, she went to college part-time at Delaware Technical & Community College, earning an associate degree in Physical Therapy Assistance, and graduating at the top of her class.

Leslie had a deep and abiding love for dogs and cats, and always had a houseful of both, most of them taken in as strays from the street or otherwise adopted. Leslie trained

one of her strays, Billie, a collie mix, to a championship in Dog Obedience at the Cecil County Fair. This experience led Leslie in a new direction. Initially she served as a volunteer puppy raiser for a service dog organization, and when it turned out that a couple of the Labrador Retrievers placed with her proved unsuitable as service animals, predictably, her pack of personal pets grew to take in these Labs. Eventually, Leslie gained certification as a professional dog trainer, and began a new career, building a training and boarding practice in Cecil County.

Around this time, Leslie met and married Argil Clifton, and in 2015, Leslie and Argil relocated to northern Florida where Leslie filled their one-acre lot with native Florida plants and, with Argil, set up an elaborate bird feeding station. She was especially enthralled with the Great Crested Flycatchers that occupied a nest box in their yard, with the nightly chorus of Chuck-wills-widows, and with the overhead display of Swallow-tailed Kites. Leslie took to rearing native Florida butterflies in her flower-filled gardens, and she was delighted to find a Gopher Tortoise had taken up residence in her front yard.

Near the end of 2020, Leslie and Argil moved again, this time to Aiken, South Carolina, but Leslie enjoyed less than a year in their new home. In October 2021, she was diagnosed with liver cancer, and lived only five weeks more. Leslie is survived by her husband Argil, two brothers who live in Canada, by her many friends in the Cecil Bird Club, and by thousands of friends across the nation and the world who faithfully followed her social media posts on dog training, on birds and nature, and on the love of life. Leslie is sadly missed by all.

Quotes from friends:

Sean McCandless: During the time I knew Leslie, she was an inspirational, positive and a motivated leader. She was very active in the Cecil Bird Club and MOS. She radiated her wonderful personality traits, which was very inspirational to many other Cecil Bird Club members. When she served as Cecil Bird Club president, her wonderful personality continued to show as she drew in so many new members. While we only birded one-on-one together a few times, we always found ways to laugh and enjoy nature, and we also managed to find a few birds here and there. She would regularly show up on my field trips too. I always enjoyed her company. I don't think she ever lost her Canadian accent either, "A", which we would joke about occasionally. She always said her brothers have more of an accent than she did.

I was raising kids during her most active time in the birding community here in Maryland, so I wasn't able to put a lot of time in birding back in those days. I was also working in the construction field during this time, but I remember one day I ended up with a "rain day" day off. Leslie just happened to call and ask if I had any availability to go out

to Turkey Point. So we did, and yes it rained. However, when it rains during migration, many birds get grounded due to the weather. Well, many of you who have been out on my field trips to Turkey Point know when I walk by a certain branch on the path to the lighthouse, I always point the branch out and say; this is the spot where I found my first adult male Connecticut Warbler, and Leslie was standing right next to me when this happened. I still point at that branch today and think of Leslie and our drenched rain day together. I definitely miss her.

Pat Valdata: I have wonderful memories of hawk-watching with Leslie and her dog Billie at Turkey Point in Elk Neck State Park. One day, when we drove in instead of walking, we were surprised by an adult Bald Eagle that swooped low over the car and in front of us on the trail, just a few feet away. Another day, we had a Northern Goshawk fly overhead—a life bird for me. I remember Leslie's excitement at spotting and identifying it.

As a Pat Miller certified dog trainer, she trained dogs only with positive reinforcement. Her gentle touch was very helpful to us when we got a fearful rescue dog with lots of trust issues. After her own rescue dogs died, Leslie and Argil got a black lab puppy, Shamu. Leslie often posted photos on Facebook of Shamu with a stuffed toy in his mouth, or draped across Argil's lap, or playing with a canine pal. Her photos were always a joy to see. I miss you, Leslie!

Marcia Watson: When we both first got serious about birding, Leslie was my constant birding companion. We traipsed all over Cecil County together, and there were few roads in rural Cecil that we did not explore. Our explorations also covered much of the Eastern Shore and western Maryland. Now, when I visit those places, I can still see Leslie peering through her scope at shorebirds or raising her binoculars to catch some flyover warblers. I miss her terribly.

POSTMASTER: TIME -DATED MATERIAL - PLEASE EXPEDITE

MARYLAND ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY, INC.
4915 Greenspring Avenue
Baltimore, Maryland, 21209

Nonprofit Org.
U.S. Postage
PAID
Hagerstown, MD
Permit No. 184

2022 MOS Convention will be in Person!

MOS will conduct our annual convention in-person in Solomons, MD, **May 20 - 22, 2022**, at the Solomons Island Resort and Marina. The pin design contest has started, so all you artists - start submitting your entries! Pins must illustrate the time of year and a bird species appropriate to the location. MOS is currently seeking additional **pin contest judges!** If you would like to volunteer for judging, please email the pin contest coordinator at kari.mcp.10@gmail.com. There are spaces open for both birders and art enthusiasts and will be first-come-first-served. (Judges may not submit entries to the contest.) The photo contest submissions will be online as they were for the 2021 convention; keep an eye out for more information about photo submission in March. Convention registration opens March 1st. Our convention website, <https://www.mosconvention.org/>, has more information. MOS hopes to see you at the next convention!

MOS Calendar

Through 5/31/2022

Field Trips

Please follow all restrictions requested by the host organization. Additional details are posted on MOS and chapter web sites.

2/2	8 AM – 12 PM	Chesapeake Farms Field Trip	Host: Kent County Bird Club Contact: Walter Ellison & Nancy Martin, 410-778-9568, birdclub.kentcountymd@gmail.com Description: Wintering waterfowl, raptors, White-crowned & other sparrows. Meet at the Dollar General, Chestertown.
2/2	9 AM – 12 PM	First Wednesday Walks at Fort McHenry	Host: Baltimore Bird Club. Leader: Mary Chetelat, 410- 665-0769 (alternate contact Wendy Alexander, 443- 204-3754). Description: Continuing a series of surveys at the fort and wetland. Please park outside the main entrance gate in lot on left, and meet at the gate.
2/3	3 – 5 PM	Semi-Monthly afternoon walk at Lake Artemesia	Host: Patuxent Bird Club & PGAS. Description: Two-mile walk around lake on paved path; wheelchair-accessible. Families welcome. Meet at parking area at corner of Berwyn Rd. and Ballew Ave.
2/5	7 AM – 12 PM	Hooper's Island	Host: Talbot Bird Club Description: Ducks, gulls, sparrows. Carpool from Easton Acme parking lot.
2/5	7:30 – 10 AM	Monthly walk at Fran Uhler Natural Area	Host: Patuxent Bird Club & PGAS. Leader Bill Sefton (kiwisuits@msn.com). Description: Two-mile out-and-back walk at natural area on the Patuxent River. Meet at east end of Lemon's Bridge Rd, off Rte 197.
2/5	TBA	Pinecliff Park	Host: Frederick Bird Club. Leader Marilyn Veek, mveek@yahoo.com
2/6	7:30 – 10 AM	Monthly walk at Kinder Farm Park	Host: Anne Arundel Bird Club Contact Alan Young, alanmyoung@gmail.com, 410-991-8300
2/6	8 AM – 4 PM	Ocean City Trip	Host: YMOS Contact: George Radcliffe, radclifg@gmail.com, 410-463-1669. Description: All Day ocean/bay/national park birding: Ocean City Jetty, West Ocean City, Assateague Island
2/12	2 – 4 PM	**Youth Birding**	Host: Baltimore Bird Club. Leader: Daisy Sudano, dsudanotrainings@yahoo.com, 410-426-7627. Description: "Winter Birding Craft & Walk." Meet at Cylburn Greenhouse Classroom.
2/12	3:30 – 5:30 PM	Oaks Landfill	Host: Montgomery Bird Club. Contact leader Mark England at 240-308-4114 or englandmark@comcast.net. Description: Search for wintering sparrows and raptors. <u>Reservations required at least a week ahead.</u> Limit 16. Meet at 6001 Rt. 108, Laytonsville.
2/13	8 – 11 AM	Bird Walk at Swan Harbor Farm	Host: Anne Arundel Bird Club Contact Alan Young, alanmyoung@gmail.com, 410-991-8300 Trip Leader, Matt Atticks, maddicks13@gmail, 442-987-7208
2/13	8 – 11 AM	Hughes Hollow	Host: Montgomery Bird Club Leader Nathan Tea, snowmie700@gmail.com. Description: Winter marsh and woodland birding. Targets are sparrows, winter songbirds and possibly ducks. Limit 12. Reservations required.
2/13	9 – 11 AM	Marshy Point Nature Center	Host: Baltimore Bird Club. Leaders Brent and Mary Byers, baypuffin@hotmail.com or 410-686-7294. Description: Easy half-day walk through varied habitats for feeder birds and other songbirds, raptors, and waterfowl.
2/13	All Day	Ocean City	Host: Talbot Bird Club Description: Ducks, Gannets, gulls. Carpool from Easton Acme parking lot. Meet at 6:30 AM.
2/17	3 – 5 PM	Semi-Monthly afternoon walk at Lake Artemesia	Host: Patuxent Bird Club & PGAS. Description: Two-mile walk around lake on paved path; wheelchair-accessible. Meet at parking area at corner of Berwyn Rd. and Ballew Ave.
2/18 – 20	All Day	Ocean City weekend	Host: Frederick Bird Club. Contact Tom Humphrey, 240-793-2508. Description: Weekend trip to search for waterfowl and wintering seabirds.
2/19	All day	Blackwater NWR field trip	Host: Kent County Bird Club Contact Walter Ellison & Nancy Martin, 410-778-9568, birdclub.kentcountymd@gmail.com Description: A mid-winter visit for waterfowl, eagles, pelicans and other surprises. Meet at Dollar General, Chestertown at 8 am.
2/19	7 – 11 AM	Oxford Area	Host: Talbot Bird Club. Description: Ducks, field birds. 6:30 am Carpool from Easton Acme parking lot.
2/19	7:30 – 10 AM	Monthly walk at Governor Bridge Natural Area	Host: Patuxent Bird Club & PGAS. Leader Bill Sefton (kiwisuits@msn.com). Description: Two-mile loop; fields, wet woods, brushy areas, wetlands, ponds. Meet at the parking lot, S side of Governor Bridge Rd.
2/19	7:30 AM – 4 PM	Dorchester County Birding Trip	Host: Tri-county Bird Club. Leader Mike Walsh, 410-422-0428 or mik.walsh@comcast.net. Description: Waterfowl, raptors, other winter residents. Meet at the Royal Farms on Rt. 50 west of Salisbury.
2/19	8 – 9:30 AM	Druid Hill Park	Host: Baltimore Bird Club. Patterson Park Audubon Center. Description: Join Audubon and the Maryland Zoo to explore this leafy city park. Participants must register in advance at patterson.audubon.org.
2/19	8 – 11 AM	Southwest Area Park	Host: Baltimore Bird Club. Leader: Nico Sarbanes, nasarbanes@yahoo.com. Description: Morning trip to see ducks, grebes, coots, and other water birds. We'll also look for winter residents such as sparrows, and raptors. RSVP to leader required.
2/19	8 AM – 12 PM	Trip to Eastern Neck	Host: Harford Bird Club. Leaders Eric Vangrin (evangrin@msn.com; 443-417-7219), Tom Congersky (jnjtcon@zoominternet.net; 410-658-4137) and Tom Gibson (gibsonlld@aol.com; 410-734-4135). Description: Looking for ducks, swans and other waterfowl. Meet at the Havre de Grace P&R (I-95 and Rt.155).
2/19	8 AM – 5:30 PM	GBBC - Dorchester County	Host: YMOS Contact: George Radcliffe, radclifg@gmail.com, 410-463-1669. Description: waterfowl hunt, county bird search ending with search for Short-eared Owl.
2/19	9 AM – 12 PM	Saturday Morning Monitoring Walk at Fort McHenry	Host: Baltimore Bird Club. Leader: Wendy Alexander, 443-204-3754. Description: Continuing a series of surveys of bird activity at the Fort and wetland. Binoculars required. Park outside main entrance gate in lot on left.

2/12	3:30 – 6:30 PM	Oaks Landfill	Host: Montgomery Bird Club. Contact leader Mark England at 240-308-4114 or englandmark@comcast.net. Description: Search for wintering sparrows and raptors. <u>Reservations required at least a week ahead.</u> Limit 16. Meet at 6001 Rt. 108, Laytonsville.
2/20	8 – 10 AM	Monthly walk at Quiet Waters Park	Host: Anne Arundel Bird Club Jim Collatz, jc collatz@aol.com, 410-295-3344 and Elle McGee, emcgee705@gmail.com, 443-386-3433
2/20	8 AM – 12 PM	Basic Bird Walk at Tuckahoe State Park	Host: Caroline Bird Club Rich Downs and Debby Bennett, leaders. Description: Good for beginners learning to identify birds and breeding bird behavior and how to use Merlin and ebird apps. Bring binoculars and your smart phone. Meet at the boat ramp parking lot.
2/24	8 – 11 AM	Lois Y. Green Conservation Park	Host: Montgomery Bird Club. For reservations (required), contact Mark England, englandmark@comcast.net or 240-308-4114. Description: Looking for overwintering songbirds, waterfowl, and raptors. Limit 12.
2/26 – 2/27	All Day	Ocean City Weekend	Host: Baltimore Bird Club. Leader John Landers, dado1bw@aol.com, 410-292-9549. Description: Search for Harlequin Ducks, Common Eider, Purple Sandpipers and many other winter specialties. Overnight is optional.
2/26	8 – 10:30 AM	Greenbury Point	Host: Anne Arundel Bird Club Contact Linda Vitchcock, lindabvit@hotmail.com, 410-901-7555
2/26	8 – 9:30 AM	Patterson Park	Host: Baltimore Bird Club. Patterson Park Audubon Center. Description: Join Audubon to explore this urban oasis in southeast Baltimore. Participants must register in advance at patterson.audubon.org.
2/26	9 AM – 12 PM	Field Trip/Waterfowl	Host: Washington County Bird Club. Call Mark or Heather at 301-573-1301 for additional information. Description: Search for winter waterfowl. Meet at the C&O Canal lot below the Shepherdstown Bridge.
2/27	7 AM – 12 PM	Avalon Island	Host: Talbot Bird Club Description: Staging waterfowl. 6:15 am Carpool from Easton Acme parking lot.
3/2	9 AM – 12 PM	First Wednesday Walks at Fort McHenry	Host: Baltimore Bird Club. Leader Mary Chetelat, 410-665-0769 (alternate contact Wendy Alexander, 443-204-3754). Description: Continuing survey of bird activity at the Fort. Canceled in bad weather and rescheduled to March 9. Meet in visitor center parking lot.
3/2	9:30 AM – 12 PM	Bird Walk at Oxbow Lake	Host: Anne Arundel Bird Club Contact Jay Sheppard, jaymsheppard95@gmail.com, 301-318-6318 and Marcy Stutzman, marciastutzman@netscape.net.
3/2	6 – 8 PM	Timberdoodle Hunt at Mullins Park	Host: Harford Bird Club Leaders Tom Gibson (410-734-4135; gibsonlld@aol.com) and Jane Scocca (410-272-8870; jane@scocca.org). Description: Hopefully you will see and hear the Woodcock mating display.
3/3	8 – 11 AM	Gunners Lake	Host: Montgomery Bird Club For reservations (required) contact leader Mike Bowen, 202-236-0510 or dhmbowen@yahoo.com. Description: Wintering waterfowl. Limit 10.
3/4	3 – 5 PM	Semi-Monthly afternoon walk at Lake Artemesia	Host: Patuxent Bird Club & PGAS. Description: Two-mile walk around lake on paved path; wheelchair-accessible. Families welcome. Meet at parking area at corner of Berwyn Rd. and Ballew Ave.
3/4	TBA Evening	Woodcock at Audrey Carroll	Host: Frederick Bird Club Contact David Smith, 443-995-4108 or lacsmith12@comcast.net, for meeting time and location
3/5	6:30 AM – 12 PM	Conquest Beach	Host: Talbot Bird Club. Description: Waterfowl, field birds. Carpool from Easton Acme parking lot.
3/5	7:30 – 10 AM	Monthly walk at Fran Uhler Natural Area	Host: Patuxent Bird Club & PGAS. Leader Bill Sefton (kiwisuits@msn.com). Description: Two-mile walk at natural area on the Patuxent River. Meet at E end of Lemon's Bridge Road, off Route 197.
3/5	6 – 9 PM	Woodcock Walk at Morgan Run	Host: Carroll County Bird Club. Contact Allan McQuarrie at 410-552-1278. Description: See and hear annual courting ritual. Meet at the parking lot at the end of Ben Rose Lane. Alternate date March 12.
3/6	7 AM – 5 PM	Blackwater NWR	Host: Baltimore Bird Club. Leader Joe Corcoran, corcoran2921@gmail.com or 667-231-6453. Description: Ducks, geese, bald eagles, and brown-headed nuthatches. White pelicans, Rough-legged hawk and Short-eared Owl possible. RSVP required.
3/6	7:30 – 10 AM	Monthly walk at Kinder Farm Park	Host: Anne Arundel Bird Club Contact Alan Young, alanmyoung@gmail.com, 410-991-8300
3/6	8 – 11 AM	Centennial Park	Host: Howard County Bird Club Leader Russell Kovach, Russell.kovach@gmail.com. Description: Waterfowl expected, early migrant passerines possible.
3/9	9 AM – 12 PM	Late Winter Birding at Swan Harbor	Host: Harford Bird Club Leader Matthew Addicks (maddicks@harfordcountymd.gov). Description: We target staging waterfowl, sparrows, winter specialties, and early migrants. Requires free registration at http://www.harfordcountymd.gov/parksrecregistration
3/10	8 – 11 AM	Bird Walk & Hawk Watch	Host: Anne Arundel Bird Club Contact Alan Young, alanmyoung@gmail.com, 410-991-8300. The trip leader is Chris Barry, christopher.barry.ics@gmail.com, 410-897-7216
3/10	6 – 8 PM	Timberdoodle Hunt at Mullins Park	Host: Harford Bird Club Guide Tim Houghton (410-510-7504; timhoughton@comcast.net). Description: Hopefully you will see and hear the Woodcock mating display.
3/12	8 – 11 AM	Cromwell Valley Park	Host: Baltimore Bird Club. Leader Mark Linardi, 443-834-8413 or mlinardi@outlook.com. Description: We will be looking for waterfowl, early warblers, sparrows and more. Accessible. Beginners birders welcome! RSVP to the leader.
3/12	8 AM – 3 PM	Pickering Creek	Host: Kent County Bird Club Contact Walter Ellison & Nancy Martin, 410-778-9568, birdclub.kentcountymd@gmail.com Description: Search for early waterfowl and lingering winter visitors. Meet in the Dollar General parking lot, Chestertown.
3/12	9 AM – 5 PM	Blackwater NWR	Hosts: Patuxent Bird Club & PGAS. Leaders Ken & Diane Cohen (kvulture@aol.com). Description: Target species include Snow Geese, Tundra Swans, ducks, and maybe American White Pelicans. Meet at Bay Country Bakery, 2951 Ocean Gateway, Cambridge.
3/13	6:30 AM – 12 PM	Kent County	Host: Talbot Bird Club Description: Waterfowl, gulls, sparrows. Carpool from Easton Acme parking lot.
3/13	8 – 11 AM	Centennial Park	Host: Howard County Bird Club. Leader David Ziolkowski, dziolkowski@usgs.gov. Description; Waterfowl expected, early migrant passerines possible.
3/13	9 – 11 AM	Marshy Point Nature Center	Host: Baltimore Bird Club. Leaders Brent and Mary Byers, baypuffin@hotmail.com or 410-686-7294. Description: Easy half-day walk through varied habitats for feeder birds and other songbirds, raptors, and waterfowl. All are welcome, including families. RSVP required. Limit 10.

3/13	6:45 – 8 PM	Pickering Creek	Host: Talbot Bird Club Description: Woodcock mating display.
3/17	3 – 5 PM	Semi-Monthly afternoon walk at Lake Artemesia	Host: Patuxent Bird Club & PGAS. Description: Two-mile walk around lake on paved path; wheelchair-accessible. Families welcome. Meet at parking area at corner of Berwyn Rd. and Ballew Ave.
3/19	7:30 – 10 AM	Monthly walk at Governor Bridge Natural Area	Host: Patuxent Bird Club & PGAS. Leader Bill Sefton (kiwisuits@msn.com). Description: Two-mile loop at natural area on the Patuxent River. Meet at the parking lot on the S side of Governor Bridge Rd.
3/19	8 – 9:30 AM	Druid Hill Park	Host: Baltimore Bird Club. Patterson Park Audubon Center. Description: Join Audubon and the Maryland Zoo to explore this leafy city park. Participants must register in advance at patterson.audubon.org .
3/19	9 AM – 12 PM	Saturday Morning Monitoring Walk at Fort McHenry	Host: Baltimore Bird Club. Leader: Wendy Alexander, 443-204-3754. Description: Continuing survey of bird activity at the Fort. Binoculars required. Telescope useful for distance viewing. Canceled in bad weather and rescheduled to March 26. Meet in visitor center parking lot.
3/19	All Day	Mill Creek MOS Sanctuary	Host: Talbot Bird Club Description: Workday, trails and bridges. Meet at 7 AM.
3/19 – 20	All Day	YMOS Birdathon	Host: YMOS Contact: George Radcliffe, radclifg@gmail.com , 410-463-1669 Description: YMOS fund-raiser for World Series of Birding. Saturday: Ocean City to Cambridge Sunday: Cambridge to Bay Bridge
3/20	8 – 10 AM	Monthly walk at Quiet Waters Park	Host: Anne Arundel Bird Club, Contact Pat and Juanita Tate, jpt8@earthlink.net , 410-266-6043
3/20	8 – 11 AM	Centennial Park	Host: Howard County Bird Club. Leader David Holmes, musiclbnr@gmail.com . Description: Waterfowl expected, early migrant passerines possible.
3/20	8 AM – 12 PM	North Point State Park	Host: Baltimore Bird Club. Leader: Libby Erickson, elizabeth.errickson@gmail.com . Description: Waterfowl, herons, raptors, sparrows. RSVP required.
3/20	9 – 11 AM	**Youth Birding**	Host: Baltimore Bird Club. Leader: Daisy Sudano, dsudanotrainings@yahoo.com , 410-426-7627. Description: "Spring Migration" will be this month's theme. Meet at Coppermine Fieldhouse.
3/20	TBA Evening	Searching for Owls	Host: Washington County Bird Club. Contact Mark or Heather 301-573-1301. Description: Time and meeting place TBA
3/24	8 AM – 12 PM	Bird Walk at Wootons Landing & Sands Park	Host: Anne Arundel Bird Club Contact Alan Young, alanmyoung@gmail.com , 410-991-8300
3/26	8 – 9:30 AM	Patterson Park	Host: Baltimore Bird Club. Patterson Park Audubon Center. Description: Join Audubon to explore this urban oasis in southeast Baltimore. Participants must register in advance at patterson.audubon.org .
3/26	8 – 11 AM	Rocky Point Park	Host: Baltimore Bird Club. Leader Nico Sarbanes, nasarbanes@yahoo.com . Description: Great opportunities for viewing waterfowl congregated in Back River, and lingering winter passerines. RSVP required. Meeting place: second parking lot (across from the beach house).
3/26	8 AM – 12 PM	Lapidum Boat Launch, Susquehanna SP	Host: Harford Bird Club Leader Dennis Kirkwood (410-692-5905; newarkfarms@gmail.com). Description: Scan the river in search of lingering winter visitors, early spring arrivals and resident species. Little Gull and Black-headed Gulls are possible.
3/26	7:30 AM – 3 PM	Pickering Creek Audubon Center	Host: Tri-county Bird Club. Contact Ellen Lawler, 410-982-8695 or emlawler534@comcast.net . Description: Walking the trails and exploring various habitats; we will eat our lunch at their picnic area. Meet at the Royal Farms on Rt. 50 west of Salisbury.
3/26	All Day	Bombay Hook NWR field trip	Host: Kent County Bird Club Contact: Compiler Nancy Martin, 410-778-9568, birdclub.kentcountymd@gmail.com Description: An all-day trip for waterfowl, shorebirds, herons and other early migrants. Meet at the Dollar General, Chestertown at 8 AM.
3/27	7 AM – 12 PM	Cottingham Farm Property	Host: Talbot Bird Club Description: Ducks, early migrants. Carpool from Easton Acme parking lot.
3/27	8 – 11 AM	Centennial Park	Host: Howard County Bird Club. Leader TBA. Description: Waterfowl expected, early migrant passerines possible.
4/1 – 4/3	All Day	Sanctuary Work Weekend at Irish Grove Sanctuary	Host: MOS Sanctuary Committee. Contact Marcia Watson (marshwren50@comcast.net) to volunteer. Description: Maintenance and improvement tasks on the grounds and in the house.
4/2	7 AM – 12 PM	Pickering Creek	Host: Talbot Bird Club Description: Early migrants.
4/2	7:30 – 10 AM	Monthly walk at Fran Uhler Natural Area	Host: Patuxent Bird Club & PGAS. Leader Bill Sefton (kiwisuits@msn.com). Description: Two-mile walk at natural area on the Patuxent River. Meet at E end of Lemon's Bridge Road, off Route 197.
4/2	9 AM – 12 PM	Bird Walk at Masonville Cove	Host: Anne Arundel Bird Club Contact Alan Young, alanmyoung@gmail.com , 410-991-8300. Trip leader is Tim Carney, tcarny@menv.com , 410-340-1269.
4/2	TBA	Birding at Fred Archibald	Host: Frederick Bird Club Contact Bonnie Borsa, 301-695-8214 or 301-606-9383 or bonborsa@comcast.net , for meeting time and location
4/3	7:30 – 10 AM	Monthly walk at Kinder Farm Park	Host: Anne Arundel Bird Club Contact Alan Young, alanmyoung@gmail.com , 410-991-8300
4/3	8 AM – 12 PM	Soldiers Delight	Host: Baltimore Bird Club. Leader: Sarah Luttrell Description: Expect to see a wide variety of migrating songbirds. Meet at the Overlook on Deer Park Rd. We will cover 1.5-2 miles of level but sometimes rocky terrain.
4/5	8 – 10 AM	Lake Roland	Host: Baltimore Bird Club. Leader Joe Corcoran, corcoran2921@gmail.com , or 667-231-6453. Description: Follow the progress of spring migration. Meet at the Light Rail Parking Lot (Boardwalk entrance to the park). Limit 10. RSVP required.
4/6	9 AM – 12 PM	First Wednesday Walks at Fort McHenry	Host: Baltimore Bird Club. Leader Mary Chetelat, 410-665-0769 (alternate contact Wendy Alexander, 443-204-3754). Description: Continuing survey of bird activity at the Fort. Canceled in bad weather and rescheduled to April 13.
4/7	6 – 8 PM	Semi-Monthly afternoon walk at Lake Artemesia	Host: Patuxent Bird Club & PGAS. Description: Two-mile walk around lake on paved path; wheelchair-accessible. Families welcome. Meet at parking area at corner of Berwyn Rd. and Ballew Ave.
4/9	7 AM – 6 PM	Eastern Shore Migrant Search	Host: YMOS Contact: George Radcliffe, radclifg@gmail.com , 410-463-1669 Description: Search for early migrants on the Eastern Shore: Nassawango Creek, Elliott Island Rd, Blackwater Refuge
4/9	7:30 AM – 12 PM	Ma & Pa Trail	Host: Harford Bird Club Leader Susan Hood (410-937-7552; susanjhodd@comcast.net). Description: Search for early migrants and local residents. Meet at the parking lot near Annie's Playground on Smith Lane off Connolly Rd. in Fallston.

4/9	8 – 11 AM	Irvine Nature Center	Host: Baltimore Bird Club. Leader Brian Rollfinke, brollfinke@gmail.com Description: Participants will have a chance to see several different sparrow species, raptors, perhaps some Wood Ducks, early spring migrants and Red-headed Woodpeckers. Required fee \$5 per person. RSVP to leader.
4/9	9 AM – 5 PM	Project Clean Stream clean-up day at Pelot Sanctuary	Host: Caroline Bird Club Description: Wear proper clothing and work gloves and if you can, bring some trash bags. Sanctuary information and directions: https://birdersguidemddc.org/site/pelot-mos-sanctuary/
4/9	TBA	C&O Canal @ Lander Rd	Host: Frederick Bird Club Contact Kathy Calvert 301-810-5677 kathycalvert1@gmail.com for meeting time and location
4/9	TBA	Alpha Ridge Landfill	Host: Howard County Bird Club Contact Joe Hanfman, auk1844@gmail.com, 410-722-8424. Vesper Sparrow, Meadowlarks, Kestrels and other open country birds. Reservations required, limit 5 vehicles.
4/9	All Day	Prime Hook NWR field trip	Host: Kent County Bird Club Contact Walter Ellison & Nancy Martin, 410-778-9568, birdclub.kentcountymd@gmail.com Description: Spring birding for late waterfowl, herons, early shorebirds including avocets and stilts, and songbirds. Meet in the Dollar General parking lot, Chestertown.
4/10	7 AM – 12 PM	Eastern Talbot Mills	Host: Talbot Bird Club Description: Early migrants. Carpool from Easton Acme parking lot.
4/10	8 – 10 AM	Monthly walk at Quiet Waters Park	Host: Anne Arundel Bird Club Contact Elle McGee, emcgee705@gmail.com, 443-386-3433
4/10	8 – 11 AM	Marshy Point Nature Center	Host: Baltimore Bird Club. Leaders Brent and Mary Byers, baypuffin@hotmail.com or 410-686-7294. Description: Easy half-day walk through varied habitats for feeder birds and other songbirds, raptors, and waterfowl. All are welcome, including families. RSVP required. Limit 10.
4/10	8 AM – 12 PM	Sharps at Waterford Farm	Host: Howard County Bird Club Leader Wes and Sue Earp. Diverse habitats and good birding opportunities on this working farm. Knee-high waterproof footwear required.
4/10	8:30 – 11:30 AM	Habitat Walk	Host: Baltimore Bird Club. Leader Peter Lev, plev@comcast.net or 410-952-9426. Description: Explore the birds, plants and butterflies of this unusual site. Meet at the parking lot behind the Home and Hospital School, 6229 Falls Rd. Limit 12; registration required.
4/10	9 – 11 AM	**Youth Birding**	Host: Baltimore Bird Club. Leader Daisy Sudano, dsudanotrainings@yahoo.com, 410-426-7627. Description: "Song Birds & Daffodils" will be this month's theme. Meet at Cylburn Arboretum.
4/12	8 – 10 AM	Lake Roland	Host: Baltimore Bird Club. Leader John Landers, dado1bw@aol.com, 410-292-9549. Description: Following the progress of spring migration. Meet at the Light Rail Parking Lot (Boardwalk entrance to the park). Limit 10. Pre-registration required.
4/16	7:30 – 10 AM	Monthly walk at Governor Bridge Natural Area	Host: Patuxent Bird Club & PGAS. Leader Bill Sefton (kiwisuits@msn.com). Description: Two-mile loop at natural area on the Patuxent River. Meet at the parking lot on the S side of Governor Bridge Rd.
4/16	8 – 11 AM	Car & Walking Tour of Patuxent North Tract	Host: Anne Arundel Bird Club Contact Alan Young, alanmyoung@gmail.com, 410-991-8300
4/16	9 AM – 12 PM	Saturday Morning Monitoring Walk at Fort McHenry	Host: Baltimore Bird Club. Leader Wendy Alexander, 443-204-3754. Description: Continuing survey of bird activity at the Fort. Canceled in bad weather and rescheduled to April 23. Meet in visitor center parking lot.
4/16	11 AM – 12 PM	Workshop: From Forest Floor to the Treetops: A Video Introduction to Maryland Birds	Host: Baltimore Bird Club. Presenter: Marty Brazeau Description: Learn about the behavior, characteristics, and ecology of birds filmed in the Maryland area. Meet at the Natural History Society of MD, 6908 Belair Rd.
4/16	TBA	Antietam NB - Sherrick Farm Trail	Host: Frederick Bird Club Contact Mike Spurrier, 240-446-0305, mspurrier819@gmail.com or Jeff Smith, 240-291-1892, jefsmith78@gmail.com for meeting time and location
4/17	All Day	Nassawango Area	Host: Talbot Bird Club Description: Vireos, flycatchers, warblers. Carpool from Easton Acme parking lot. Meet at 6:30 AM.
4/17	8 – 11 AM	Lake Roland	Host: Baltimore Bird Club. Leader Mark Linardi, 443-834-8413 or mlinardi@outlook.com Description: Following the progress of spring migration. Meet at the Light Rail Parking Lot (Boardwalk entrance to the park). Limit 10. Pre-registration required.
4/19	7 AM – 12 PM	Birding at Albert Powell Fish Hatchery	Host: Washington County Bird Club Contact Anna 301-797-8454.
4/19	8 – 10 AM	Lake Roland	Host: Baltimore Bird Club. Leader Gene Ricks, 410-952-4382 or gricks1@verizon.net. Description: Following the progress of spring migration. Meet at the Light Rail Parking Lot (Boardwalk entrance to the park). Limit 10. Pre-registration required.
4/21	8 – 11 AM	Bird Walk at Conquest Preserve	Host: Anne Arundel Bird Club Contact Alan Young, 410-9991-8300 Walk leader is JC Lowery, jclowery8@gmail.com, 443-496-1795
4/21	6 – 8 PM	Semi-Monthly afternoon walk at Lake Artemesia	Host: Patuxent Bird Club & PGAS. Description: Two-mile walk around lake on paved path; wheelchair-accessible. Families welcome. Meet at parking area at corner of Berwyn Rd. and Ballew Ave.
4/23	7:30 AM – 12 PM	Warblers and Wildflowers at Susquehanna SP	Host: Harford Bird Club Leaders Colleen Webster (410-459-4577; cwebster@harford.edu), Eric Vangrin (evangrin@msn.com; 443-417-7219), and Sue Procell (443-417-4919; procellmd@gmail.com). Description: Enjoy wildflowers and migrant and resident bird species. Meet at the parking area at the confluence of Deer Creek and the Susquehanna River just north of Rock Run Mill.
4/23	7:30 AM – 12 PM	Final Attack Trail at Antietam Battlefield	Host: Washington County Bird Club Contact Mark or Heather 301-573-1301
4/23	8 – 9:30 AM	Druid Hill Park	Host: Baltimore Bird Club. Patterson Park Audubon Center. Description: Join Audubon and the Maryland Zoo to explore this leafy city park. Participants must register in advance at patterson.audubon.org .
4/23	8 – 11 AM	Mt. Pleasant Farm	Host: Howard County Bird Club and Howard County Conservancy. Leader Gregg Petersen, sig29@aol.com. Earth Day Walk, fields, treelines, hedgerows and streams.
4/23	8 AM – 12 PM	Howard County Conservancy	Host: Baltimore Bird Club. Leader fmorgan@hawk.iit.edu, 410-487-1110 Description: Expect to see a wide variety of species: Vireos, flycatchers, raptors, woodpeckers, sparrows and arriving warblers. RSVP required.

4/23	12 – 4 PM	Eastern Neck NWR field trip	Host: Kent County Bird Club Contact Walter Ellison & Nancy Martin, 410-778-9568, birdclub.kentcountymd@gmail.com Description: Earth Day exploration of the Refuge's trails and overlooks. Meet in the parking area at the Tundra Swan boardwalk.
4/23	TBA	Thompson WMA	Host: Frederick Bird Club Contact Lois Kauffman, 301-845-6690 or md.pa.birding@gmail.com for meeting time and location. Description: Warblers and wildflowers!
4/24	6:30 AM – 12 PM	Hope House	Host: Talbot Bird Club Description: Tanagers, orioles, warblers. Carpool from Easton Acme parking lot.
4/24	7:30 AM – 5 PM	Trip to Delaware Shore	Host: Harford Bird Club Contact Dr. Dave Larkin at(410-569-8319 or larkin3001@comcast.net). Description: Shore birds, water birds, wading species, raptors and songbirds. Meet at the Havre de Grace commuter lot near Rt.155/I-95.
4/24	7:30 AM – 2 PM	Annual Nassawango Birding Trip	Host: Tri-county Bird Club. Leader Ellen Lawler. 410-982-8695 or emlawler534@comcast.net. Description: Searching for warblers, vireos, flycatchers, and other migrating passerines and newly arrived summer residents. Meet at Ward Museum parking lot.
4/24	8:15 – 11 AM	Cylburn Walk	Host: Baltimore Bird Club. Leader Mark Linardi, 443- 834-8413 or mlinardi@outlook.com. Description: Easy birding in Cylburn's gardens and urban forest. Expect to find a variety of migrant and resident birds. Limit 10. Pre-registration required.
4/26	8 – 10 AM	Lake Roland	Host: Baltimore Bird Club. Leaders Debbie & Lou Taylor, 410--852-9807, debrataylor11@gmail.com. Description: Following the progress of spring migration. Meet at the Light Rail Parking Lot (Boardwalk entrance to the park). Limit 10. Pre-registration required.
4/27	7:30 – 10:30 AM	Cromwell Valley Park	Host: Baltimore Bird Club. Leader John Landers, dado1bw@aol.com, 410-292-9549. Description: We will be looking for warblers and other migrants, and search the open meadows for swallows, flycatchers, raptors, and more. Beginners birders welcome!
4/28	TBA	Upper Marlboro Ponds	Host is Anne Arundel Bird Club, Contact: Fred Shaffer, glaucousgull@verizon.net, 443-926-6457 Description: This will be a walking/driving tour.
4/30	7 AM – 12 PM	C&O Canal and Antietam Battlefield	Host: Carroll County Bird Club. RSVP to Scott Hodgdon at 443-280-2480 or scotthodgdon@msn.com. Description: Walk on the C&O Canal towpath for early warblers, woodland birds and waterfowl and go to Antietam Battlefield for field birds. Meet at the P&R on Route 27 just N of I-70 in Mt. Airy to carpool.
4/30	7 AM – 12 PM	Palmer State Park	Host: Harford Bird Club Leader Mark Johnson, (410-692-5978; marksjohnson2@gmail.com). Description: This little known park is actually one of Harford County's gems.
4/30	8 – 9:30 AM	Patterson Park	Host: Baltimore Bird Club. Patterson Park Audubon Center. Description: Join Audubon to explore this urban oasis in southeast Baltimore. Participants must register in advance at patterson.audubon.org.
4/30	8 AM – 12 PM	Basic Bird Walk at Camp Mardella	Host: Caroline Bird Club Leaders Robin Lahnemann and Debby Bennett Description: Park and meet by the pavilion on the left before you get to the main campus area.
4/30	TBA	Birding Baker Park	Host: Frederick Bird Club Contact Gary Smith and Helen Belencan, hbandme@me.com or 803-292-688 for meeting time and location. Description: Spring migrants.
5/1	4:30 – 10 AM	Peters Neck, Dorchester County	Host: Talbot Bird Club Description: Owls, chuck-wills-widows. Carpool from Easton Acme parking lot.
5/1	6 AM – 4 PM	Western Shore Migrant Search	Host: YMOS Contact George Radcliffe, radclifg@gmail.com, 410-463-1669 Description: Migrant search of Western Shore areas: Susquehanna SP, Swan Harbor, North Point State Park.
5/1	7:30 – 10 AM	Monthly walk at Kinder Farm Park	Host: Anne Arundel Bird Club Contact Alan Young, alanmyoung@gmail.com, 410-991-8300
5/1	8 AM – 12 PM	Oregon Ridge and Agricultural Center	Host: Baltimore Bird Club. Leader Simon Best, simonrabest@gmail.com Description: Oregon Ridge is a good spot for warblers, thrushes, and other passerines. The Center for Maryland Agriculture has grassland specialists. RSVP required. Limit 10.
5/1	8 AM – 1 PM	Millington NRMA field trip	Host: Kent County Bird Club Contact Walter Ellison & Nancy Martin, 410-778-9568, birdclub.kentcountymd@gmail.com Description: Migrating warblers should be on the move while some breeding specialties will be setting up territories. Meet in the Dollar General parking lot, Chestertown.
5/1	8:15 AM – 12 PM	Cylburn Walk	Host: Baltimore Bird Club. Leader Peter Lev, plev@comcast.net or 410-952-9426. Description: Meet at the main Vollmer Center for easy birding in Cylburn's gardens and urban forest. Beginning birders welcome. Limit 10. Pre-registration required.
5/3	8 – 10 AM	Lake Roland	Host: Baltimore Bird Club. Leader Peter Lev, plev@comcast.net or 410-952-9426. Description: Following the progress of spring migration. Meet at the Light Rail Parking Lot (Boardwalk entrance to the park). Limit 10. Pre-registration required.
5/4	8 AM – 12 PM	Susquehanna SP	Host: Anne Arundel Bird Club Contact Peter Hanan, peter.hanan@icloud.com, 301-580-2785
5/4	9 AM – 12 PM	First Wednesday Walks at Fort McHenry	Host: Baltimore Bird Club. Leader Mary Chetelat, 410-665-0769 (alternate contact Wendy Alexander, 443-204-3754). Description: Continuing survey of bird activity at the Fort. Canceled in bad weather and walk rescheduled to May 11. Meet in visitor center parking lot.
5/5	6 – 8 PM	Semi-Monthly afternoon walk at Lake Artemesia	Host: Patuxent Bird Club & PGAS. Description: Two-mile walk around lake on paved path; wheelchair-accessible. Families welcome. Meet at parking area at corner of Berwyn Rd. and Ballew Ave.
5/7	7 AM – 12 PM	Warbler Walk at Susquehanna SP	Host: Harford Bird Club Leader Tim Houghton (410-510-7504; timhoughton@comcast.net). Description: Take a stroll through the park in search of spring migrants, especially warblers.
5/7	7:30 – 10 AM	Monthly walk at Fran Uhler Natural Area	Host: Patuxent Bird Club & PGAS. Leader Bill Sefton (kiwisuits@msn.com). Description: Two-mile walk at natural area on the Patuxent River. Meet at East end of Lemon's Bridge Road, off Route 197.
5/7	8 – 11 AM	Southwest Area Park	Host: Anne Arundel Bird Club & BBC, Contact Stan Arnold, thrushhost@gmail.com, 410-428-7567.
5/7	7:30 AM – 3 PM	Birding at Hazel Outdoor Center	Host: Tri-county Bird Club. Leader Mike Walsh, 410-422-0428 or mik.walsh@comcast.net. Description: Searching for summer residents, with emphasis on warblers, flycatchers and vireos. Meet at Ward Museum parking lot.
5/7	9 AM – 12 PM	Green Mount Cemetery	Host: Baltimore Bird Club. Leader Mary Shock, mmmaryshock@aol.com. Description: Hike paved roads through Green Mount Cemetery to find migrating warblers and orioles and to see resident raptors. Parking is inside the gate on the cemetery roads.

5/7	TBA	Gambrill State Park	Host: Frederick Bird Club Contact Lois Kauffman, 301-845-6690 or md.pa.birding@gmail.com for meeting time and location. Description: Warblers and spring arrivals.
5/7	TBA	Birding at Sideling Hill	Host: Washington County Bird Club Contact Mark or Heather 301-573-1301. Description: Time and meeting place TBD.
5/8	6:30 AM – 12 PM	Millington WMA	Host: Talbot Bird Club Description: Migrants. Carpool from Easton Acme parking lot.
5/8	8 – 11 AM	Marshy Point Nature Center	Host: Baltimore Bird Club. Leaders Brent and Mary Byers, baypuffin@hotmail.com or 410-686-7294. Description: Easy walk looking for feeder birds and other songbirds, raptors, and waterfowl. All are welcome, including families. RSVP required. Limit 10.
5/8	8 – 11 AM	Western Regional Park	Host: Howard County Bird Club. Leader David Sandler, detour65@aol.com. Opportunity for warblers, sparrows, thrushes, and flyovers. Meet at Carr's Mill Rd parking lot.
5/8	8:15 – 11 AM	Cylburn Walk	Host: Baltimore Bird Club. Leader Mark Linardi, 443- 834-8413 or mlinardi@outlook.com. Description: Easy birding in Cylburn's gardens and urban forest. Expect to find a variety of migrant and resident birds. Limit 10. Pre-registration required.
5/10	8 – 10 AM	Lake Roland	Host: Baltimore Bird Club. Leader Ron Davis, ronldavis1963@gmail.com, 410--821-1297. Description: Following the progress of spring migration. Meet at the Light Rail Parking Lot (Boardwalk entrance to the park). Limit 10. Pre-registration required.
5/11	7:30 – 10:30 AM	Warbler Walk at Milford Mill Park	Host: Anne Arundel Bird Club, Contact Gene Ricks, gricks1@verizon.net, 410-952-4382
5/11	7:30 – 10:30 AM	Cromwell Valley Park	Host: Baltimore Bird Club. Leader John Landers, dado1bw@aol.com, 410-292-9549. Description: Looking for warblers and other migrants, swsearch the open meadows for swallows, flycatchers, raptors, and more. Accessible. Beginners birders welcome!
5/13	8 – 10:30 AM	Bird Walk, Snaggy Mt. Road	Host: Allegany/Garrett Bird Club Contact Bill Blauvelt at bil.blauvelt@gmail.com. Description: Bird Walk at Snaggy Rd in Garrett County.
5/13	TBA	Eden Mill	Host: Harford Bird Club Leader Matthew Addicks (maddicks@harfordcountymd.gov). Description: Expect to see warblers, breeders, and some of the raptors that breed in the surrounding area. Registration required at http://www.harfordcountymd.gov/parksrecregistration .
5/15	7:30 AM – 1 PM	Susquehanna State Park, Rock Run Gristmill	Host: Baltimore Bird Club. Leader Joe Corcoran, corcoran2921@gmail.com, or 667-231-6453. Description: Trip for resident Cerulean and Prothonotary Warblers and spring migrants. Meet at the lot at the end of Rock Run Rd., next to the mill. RSVP required.
5/15	8 – 10 AM	Monthly walk at Quiet Waters Park	Host: Anne Arundel Bird Club, Leo Dilling, leodilling@hotmail.com, 703-282-0011
5/15	8 AM – 4 PM	**Youth Birding**	Host: Baltimore Bird Club. Leader: Daisy Sudano, dsudanotrainings@yahoo.com, 410-426-7627. Description: "Shore Birds and the Horseshoe Crab" will be this month's theme. Meet at Dupont Nature Center, DE.
5/16	All Day	Susquehanna State Park	Host: Talbot Bird Club Description: Waterfowl, warblers, sparrows. Carpool from Easton Acme parking lot. Meet at 5:15 AM.
5/17	8 – 10 AM	Lake Roland	Host: Baltimore Bird Club. Leader Mark Linardi, 443- 834-8413 or mlinardi@outlook.com. Description: Following the progress of spring migration. Meet at the Light Rail Parking Lot (Boardwalk entrance to the park). Limit 10. Pre-registration required.
5/19	6 – 8 PM	Semi-Monthly afternoon walk at Lake Artemesia	Host: Patuxent Bird Club & PGAS. Description: Two-mile walk around lake on paved path; wheelchair-accessible. Families welcome. Meet at parking area at corner of Berwyn Rd. and Ballew Ave.
5/21	7 AM – 12 PM	Sweet Air Area of Gunpowder SP	Host: Harford Bird Club Leader Mark Johnson (410-692-5978; marksjohnson2@gmail.com). Description: Baltimore Orioles, Indigo Buntings, Scarlet Tanagers and various warbler species are the target birds. Meet at the parking lot at the end of Dalton-Bevard Road.
5/21	7:30 – 10 AM	Monthly walk at Governor Bridge Natural Area	Host: Patuxent Bird Club & PGAS. Leader Bill Sefton (kiwisuits@msn.com). Description: Two-mile loop; fields, wet woods, brushy areas, wetlands, ponds. Meet at the parking lot on the S side of Governor Bridge Rd.
5/21	8 – 9:30 AM	Druid Hill Park	Host: Baltimore Bird Club. Patterson Park Audubon Center. Description: Join Audubon and the Maryland Zoo to explore this leafy city park. Participants must register in advance at patterson.audubon.org .
5/21	8 AM – 12 PM	Hashawha Environmental Center	Host: Carroll County Bird Club. To RSVP contact Scott Hodgdon at 443-280-2480 or scotthodgdon@msn.com. Description: Looking for vireos, Blue-gray Gnatcatchers and flycatchers. Meet at Bear Branch Nature Center.
5/21	9 AM – 12 PM	Saturday Morning Monitoring Walk at Fort McHenry	Host: Baltimore Bird Club. Leader Wendy Alexander, 443-204-3754. Description: Continuing survey of bird activity at the Fort. Canceled in bad weather and rescheduled to May 28. Meet in visitor center parking lot.
5/21	4 – 6:30 PM	North Tarra Road	Host: Talbot Bird Club Description: Owls, chuck-wills-widows, whip-poor-wills. Carpool from Easton Acme parking lot.
5/21	TBA	Gambrill Watershed & 4 Ponds Trail	Host: Frederick Bird Club Contact Lois Kauffman, 301-845-6690 or md.pa.birding@gmail.com for meeting time and location. Description: Spring migrants.
5/22	6:30 AM – 4 PM	Coastal Delaware	Host: Talbot Bird Club Description: Shorebirds. Carpool from Easton Acme parking lot.
5/22	All Day	Delaware Bay Shorebirds & Horseshoe Crabs	Host: Kent County Bird Club Contact Walter Ellison & Nancy Martin, 410-778-9568, birdclub.kentcountymd@gmail.com Description: Red Knots and Ruddy Turnstones feeding on Horseshoe Crab eggs is a migration spectacle. Meet in the Dollar General parking lot, Chestertown at 8 AM.
5/24	8 – 10 AM	Lake Roland	Host: Baltimore Bird Club. Leader Devi Abbot, abbottdevi@gmail.com Description: Following the progress of spring migration. Meet at the Light Rail Parking Lot (Boardwalk entrance to the park). Limit 10. Pre-registration required.
5/28	8 – 9:30 AM	Patterson Park	Host: Baltimore Bird Club. Patterson Park Audubon Center. Description: Join Audubon to explore this urban oasis in southeast Baltimore. Participants must register in advance at patterson.audubon.org .

5/28	8 AM – 12 PM	Krimgold Park	Host: Carroll County Bird Club. To RSVP, contact Matthew Hodgdon at 301-703-0657 or mhodgdon@msn.com. Description: We hope to see sparrows, swallows and Horned Larks. Meet at the last parking lot by the pavilion.
5/28	8:30 AM – 12 PM	Perryville Paddle	Host: Harford Bird Club Contact leaders Colleen Webster (410-459-4577; cwebster@harford.edu) or Sue Procell (443-417-4919; procellmd@gmail.com). Description: Bring your kayak, canoe or stand-up to ply Mill Creek and Furnace Bay. Meet at the Stump Point launch at the far end of the Perryville Community Park.
5/28	TBA	Patuxent NWR trip	Host: Frederick Bird Club. Leader, time and meeting place TBD. Description: Late migrants
5/28	All Day	E. Vaughn WMA, Worcester County	Host: Talbot Bird Club Description: Shorebirds, nesting warblers. Carpool from Easton Acme parking lot. Meet at 5:30 AM.
5/29	8 – 11 AM	Herring Run Park	Host: Baltimore Bird Club. Leader Kim Tomko. Description: This urban park in Northeast Baltimore is an oasis for many species of migrating and resident birds. RSVP required to Matt Lince, 443-324-0907 or mdlince@comcast.net.
5/29	All Day	Field trip to Delaware Bayshore	Host: Patuxent Bird Club & PGAS. Description: Delaware Bayshore for migrating shorebirds. Details TBA.
5/30	7 AM – 12 PM	Hidden Valley	Host: Harford Bird Club Leader is Dennis Kirkwood (410-692-5905 or newarkfarms@gmail.com). Description: The trip will proceed along Hidden Valley and on to Bradenbaugh Flats. Meet in the parking lot at the N end of Madonna Rd where it crosses Deer Creek. Parking space is limited.

Meetings

Meetings may be virtual or in-person (or both)! Additional details, including links, will be posted on chapter web sites and the MOS calendar, as available.

2/17	7:30 – 9 PM	Caroline Bird Club	Rich Downs will present "Online birding from Hawaii to your backyard"	Caroline County Public Library
2/22	7 – 9 PM	Washington County Bird Club	Program TBA.	Mt. Aetna Nature Center
2/28	7 – 9 PM	Tri-county Bird Club	"Maryland and DC Breeding Bird Atlas 3" presented by Gabriel Foley, Atlas Coordinator.	MAC Education Center
3/1	7 – 9 PM	Baltimore Bird Club	Clive Harris will give us some tips on how to identify gulls.	Virtual
3/3	7 – 9 PM	Frederick Bird Club	Lindsay Jacks will speak on "Saving Birds, One Building at a Time"	Virtual
3/4	7 – 9 PM	Harford Bird Club	Program TBA	TBA
3/5	10 AM – 12 PM	MOS	Board Meeting	TBA
3/8	7 – 9 PM	Baltimore Bird Club	Board Meeting. While only authorized board members have a vote, any club member is welcome to attend and participate in discussions.	Virtual
3/8	7 – 9 PM	Kent County Bird Club	Speaker & program to be announced	Heron Point
3/8	7 – 9 PM	Talbot Bird Club	"What's in Store for the Eastern Shore"	Easton YMCA Multipurpose Room
3/8	7:30 – 9 PM	Patuxent Bird Club & PGAS	Ana Maria Castaño Rivas speaking about the Global Big Day experience in Colombia.	TBA
3/10	7:30 – 9 PM	Howard County Bird Club	Gail Mackiernan will speak on Panama	Virtual
3/11	7:30 – 9:30 PM	Montgomery Bird Club	Club social/member's night.	Woodend
3/16	7 – 9 PM	Anne Arundel Bird Club	Speaker and program TBA	Virtual
3/17	7:30 – 9 PM	Caroline Bird Club	Matt Pluta will present on the health of the Choptank River and other projects	Caroline County Public Library
3/22	7 – 9 PM	Washington County Bird Club	Program TBA.	Mt. Aetna Nature Center
3/28	7 – 9 PM	Tri-county Bird Club	"Bob Hines: National Wildlife Artist"	MAC Education Center
4/5	7 – 9 PM	Baltimore Bird Club	Adam Zurgable: "Birding in Maine: participating in the "Field Ornithology" workshop at the Audubon Society's Hog Island Camp"	Virtual
4/7	7 – 9 PM	Frederick Bird Club	Gary Van Velsir will speak on "Birding Magee Marsh and Point Pelee"	Virtual
4/12	7 – 9 PM	Baltimore Bird Club	Board Meeting. While only authorized board members have a vote, any club member is welcome to attend and participate in discussions.	Online
4/12	7 – 9 PM	Kent County Bird Club	Speaker & program to be announced	Heron Point
4/12	7 – 9 PM	Patuxent Bird Club & PGAS	Dan Small will speak about the Natural Lands Project at Washington College's River and Fields Campus (formerly Chino Farms).	TBA
4/12	7 – 9 PM	Talbot Bird Club	"Birds and Glass", Gimple and McHenry	Easton YMCA Multipurpose Room
4/14	7:30 PM	Howard County Bird Club	Gerald Winegrad will speak on The Birds and other Wildlife of Buenos Aires, the Falkland Islands, South Georgia Island, and Antarctica	Virtual
4/20	7 – 9 PM	Anne Arundel Bird Club	Gene Scarpulla's presentation will concentrate on how to get started with shorebird identification	Virtual
4/21	7:30 – 9 PM	Caroline Bird Club	Chris Eberly, Executive Director of Maryland Bird Conservation Partnership.	Caroline County Public Library
4/25	7 – 9 PM	Tri-county Bird Club	"Feeding Wild Birds in America: A Story of Culture, Commerce, and Conservation" presented by Paul Baicich	MAC Education Center
4/26	7 – 9 PM	Washington County Bird Club	Program TBA.	Mt. Aetna Nature Center
5/3	7 – 9 PM	Baltimore Bird Club	Gail Mackiernan will speak on her 2019 birding trip to Panama.	Virtual
5/5	7 – 9 PM	Frederick Bird Club	Erin Hewett Ragheb will speak on "Florida Grasshopper Sparrows"	Virtual
5/6	7 – 9 PM	Harford Bird Club	Program TBA	TBA

5/10	7 – 9 PM	Baltimore Bird Club	Board Meeting. While only authorized board members have a vote, any club member is welcome to attend and participate in discussions.	Virtual
5/10	7 – 9 PM	Kent County Bird Club	Speaker & program to be announced	Heron Point
5/10	7 – 9 PM	Patuxent Bird Club & PGAS	Paul Baicich will speak on Access Matters: Why Birders Should Care about access to lands for birding.	TBA
5/12	7:30 – 9 PM	Howard County Bird Club	Kurt Schwarz will speak on The Kaleidoscope of Birds of the DMV	Virtual
5/18	7 – 9 PM	Anne Arundel Bird Club	Speaker and program TBA	Virtual
5/19	7:30 – 9 PM	Caroline Bird Club	Andi Pupke will speak on Chesapeake Wildlife Heritage's nesting box program.	Caroline County Public Library
5/19	TBD	Frederick Bird Club	Planning for 2022-2023	TBD
5/20	All Day	MOS	MOS Convention	Solomon's Island Resort
5/23	6 – 9 PM	Tri-county Bird Club	"Can Floating Islands save endangered seabirds in Maryland's Coastal Bays?" presented by David Curson. Dinner at 6pm.	MAC Education Center
5/24	7 – 9 PM	Washington County Bird Club	Member's Night	Mt. Aetna Nature Center

Spring Counts

Information is current as of publication date, but subject to change if state pandemic guidance/restrictions change.

Fred Archibald Count	Contact David Smith, 443-995-4108, lacsmith12@comcast.net	5/7
Dorchester County May Count	Contact Harry Armistead 215-913-4785 or harryarmistead@hotmail.com	5/7
Allegany County May Count	Contact Mark Eanes, mdeanes@atlanticbbb.net	5/14
Anne Arundel County May Count	Comtact Steve Sheffield, srsheffield@comcast.net	5/14
Baltimore County May Count	Contact Libby Erickson, elizabeth.errickson@gmail.com	5/14
World Series of Birding	Contact: George Radcliffe, radclifg@gmail.com, 410-463-1669	5/14
Calvert County May Count	Contact Sherman Suter, shermansuter@gmail.com	5/14
Caroline May Count	Contact Debby Bennett, dabennett1996@gmail.com	5/14
Carroll County May Count	Contact Scott Hodgdon, scotthodgdon@msn.com or 443-280-248	5/14
Charles County May Count	Contact Lynne Wheeler, somdaudobon@yahoo.com	5/14
Frederick County May Count	Contact David Smith, 443-995-4108, lacsmith12@comcast.net	5/14
Garrett County May Count	Contact Duane Bailey, dbailey3@earthlink.net	
Howard County May Count	Contact Greg Peterson, sig29@aol.com	5/14
Kent County May Count	Contact Walter Ellison & Nancy Martin, 410-778-9568, birdclub.kentcountymd@gmail.com	5/14
Patuxent/PGAS May Count	Contact Matt Felperin, mfelperin@nvrpa.org	5/14
Dorchester County May Count	Contact Harry Armistead 215-913-4785 or harryarmistead@hotmail.com	5/14
St. Mary's County May Count	Contact J. Tyler Bell jtylerbell@yahoo.com	5/14
Somerset County May Count	Contact Pat Valdata, pvaldata@charter.net	5/14
Worcester County May Count	Contact Marcia Balestri, mebalestri@gmail.com	5/14
Washington County May Count	Contact Mark Abdy 301-432-7696	5/14
Audrey Carroll Count	Contact David Smith, 443-995-4108, lacsmith12@comcast.net	5/15
Montgomery County May Count	Compiler TBD	5/15
Talbot County May Count	Contact Ron Ketter 708-373-5532 or rgketter@gmail.com	5/15
Wicomico County May Count	Contact Ellen Lawler, emlawler534@comcast.net	5/15